The Lee Family Papers
1742 - 1795

Paul P. Hoffman, Editor
John L. Molyneaux, Assistant Editor

1966

Microfilm Publications

University of Virginia Library

Charlottesville, Virginia

Copyright 1966, University of Virginia Library

This microfilm meets standards established

by the

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS COMMISSION

General Services Administration

and

was produced with its assistance

The Documentary Publication Program includes letterpress volumes and microfilm reproductions and is a program designed to help achieve equal opportunities for scholarship.

Statement on Use

It is the purpose of this publication to disseminate the material contained herein as widely and freely as possible. However, unauthorized use of any part of this material may be construed as a violation of the authors' literary property rights. These rights, by the principle of common law, descend with the authors' heirs.

In order to reproduce in whole or in part any of the documents here presented, it is necessary to gain permission in advance from the repository which has physical possession. The owner of each document is clearly marked on an identifying target which precedes that document. Permission to reproduce should be requested from the following:

Curator of Manuscripts,
University of Virginia Library,
Charlottesville, Virginia.

Head of the Reference Department,
Yale University Library,
New Haven, Connecticut.

Librarian, Houghton Library,
Harvard University,
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Chief, Manuscript Division,
Library of Congress,
Washington, D. C.

Librarian,
American Philosophical Society,
105 South Fifth Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Director,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Cedar Street and Central Avenue,
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Director,
The Historical Society of Pennsylvania,
1300 Locust Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY

University Librarian
John Cook Wyllie

Manuscript Division
Robert E. Stocking
Anne Freudenberg

MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Project Director
Robert E. Stocking

Editor and Deputy Project Director
Paul P. Hoffman

Assistant Editor
John L. Molyneaux

Editorial Assistants
Signe Laurie Geary
Virginia W. Brinton

Photographer
Laurence O. Holmberg

Graphics
Francis M. Moore

Printing Office
Guide printed by the University of Virginia Printing Office,
Charles E. Moran, Jr., Director

"The family of Lee . . . has more men of merit in it than any other family."

--*John Adams to Samuel Cooper*
February 28, 1779

MICROFILM / PUBLICATIONS
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY
Charlottesville, Virginia

THE LEE FAMILY PAPERS, 1742-1795

ROLL FIVE

1 July 1778-31 March 1779

Personal, Diplomatic, Political, and Commercial Correspondence

MICROFILM / PUBLICATIONS
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY
Charlottesville, Virginia

ROLL FIVE:

The chief interest of the documents of this roll lies again with Arthur Lee in France. He kept himself busy examining accounts (Jonathan Williams's in July, Monthieu's, a French merchant, in September), doggedly guarding the public money. The dispute with Deane, now effectively out of Lee's control, continued to generate heat and a little light. The light consisted in the unfolding of Edward Bancroft's true position in diplomatic circles, as it appeared he might be working as an informant for both sides and was partly responsible for certain security leaks. Even worse, the loyalty of Hezikiah Ford, Lee's secretary, was seriously questioned in resolutions laid before Congress on 26 January, which were immediately relayed to Lee by James Lovell. (The charges against Ford are further elaborated in a letter from John Page to R. H. Lee, 19 March.) In March Lee sent a statement in reply to Deane's charges to R. H. Lee.

Insight into the American activity in Spain, which consisted of the gathering of supplies for the United States and the fitting out and support of American war vessels, can be gained in John Emery's and James Gardoqui's letters to Lee, while the ceaseless activity of John Bondfield at Bordeaux continues to be represented in his letters. There are several letters from John Paul Jones, the most interesting being of 21 November, in which he comments upon his various successes and problems. On Christmas day, Dr. Berkenhout wrote Lee and expressed his unhappiness over the failure of the peace efforts of that year: "I hate all your bloody minded rogues on both sides the question." Lee gained a new correspondent in Alexander Dick. Dick had been captured by the British on 25 June 1777 while serving as Captain of Marines aboard the Mosquito, a brig belonging to Virginia. After a year's captivity at Forton prison, near Portsmouth, England, he escaped and made his way to Nantes, where he sought new military employment and expressed himself freely to his countryman in Paris. On 30 September he wrote of John Adams that he was "fitter to be amongst his shoe String gentry than in one of the politest Courts of Europe." And on 10 December, he complained to Lee, "I make no doubt he (Adams) would...give the command of a Frigate to a Cape Cod fisherman, rat her than to a Southern Gentleman...." The expanding web of American diplomacy may be noted by the negotiations of William Lee in Amsterdam concerning a commerical treaty and his thoughts on the general European situation in letters to R. H. Lee of 15 and 17 October and 20 December. Arthur Lee made efforts to secure a substantial loan for the United States in Amsterdam in November and December. The growing reputation of George Washington is illustrated by a letter of 2 July from Edward Bridgen, a merchant of London and a correspondent of Arthur Lee's: he requests a "likeness of Washington, either on paper or Metal. If you can procure me one or of the Pater Patriae pray do! I have a medal of the latter, but not a likeness."

Richard Henry Lee maintained his usual correspondents, save for George Washington, who appears much less frequently in this roll. On 12 July Lee wrote to his brother, Francis Lightfoot Lee, of the arrival of D'Estaing's fleet and the Count's declaration of war upon Great Britain. He also mentioned the arrival of the French minister, C. A. Gerard, and Silas Deane. Deane began his campaign against the Lees in December with a letter to the Pennsylvania General Advertiser, to which R. H. Lee responded on the 16th; but as Francis Lightfoot noted in a Christmas day letter to Richard Henry, Deane's forces were winning everywhere and "If our brothers are not disgraced now, I am sure they will be e'er long;...no villany will be left unpracticed to ruin them." On 11 February, R. H. Lee wrote to Arthur, rendering a full account of the unfolding of the "wicked intrigues." Among other interesting letters are those from Lafayette, De Kalb, and Pulaski, Horatio Gates, and a letter from Benjamin Franklin to James Lovell of 22 July, on the state of affairs in France.

My Dear Sir

I can't omit by this conveyance to relate a circumstance to you as a caution.

A Friend of yours (whom to my knowledge I never saw) while I was at Bath in April, call'd and enquired for me, the Servant told him where I was gone. He left a card with his name Mr J: Txxxxxxx No 6 Broad Street Carnaby Market. underneath, with a Pencill, for an Intimate Friend of Mr B: at Paris. at my return it was delivered me but not knowing the Gentleman, I declined visiting him. especially. I had heard something suspicious of him.

I have lately Learnt that he went to a Mr Wa—r in Craven Street and asked the loan of £50 as his friend Mr B: was at Bath, the Gentleman spared him £20. I hear he has been out of Town ever since.

I immagine he has been the bearer of some of your Letters to me, by which means he knew my address. I hear a New Ambassador from Spain is comming here. Its a Mistery to me, can you

engrave it? I wish I could get a likeness of Washington either on Paper or Metal If you can procure me one or of the Pater Patriæ pray do? I have a Medal of the Latter but not a likeness. My Friend at Versailles will forward it if you have not an opportunity.

Adieu My Dr Sir

Yrs faithfully

July 2 1778

13 Jun

Camp at Brunswick 2d july 1778

73

Dear Sir

I beg leave to tell you some words of congratulation for the advantage obtain'd by Gal Washington and your troops over the forces of the ~~[illegible]~~ English Army — I think they's journey through the jersays has been rather disagreable and bought very dear — this occasion, I fancy, will be a season more for sending some paquet boat to france — I beg you would give me notice of it at time, that my friends may not be deceiv'd by some Howment like account as they were after brandiwine — don't you find, my dear sir, very extraordinary to be in such an ignorance of what is doing in Europe? may I hope you'll be so good as to let me know which were the last accounts which was the last date arriv'd to your knowledge.

I will take the liberty of recommending once more to your friendship the affair of Col. Armand which I wish to be soon settled agreable to his desire — there is one other thing I want to consult you upon — you have seen my ~~p~~ public letters concerning the Mis de Armand, and therefore you are acquainted well enough of what concerns that gentleman he has always been near the ennemy and risk'd to be taken without commission — the consequence thereof could be avoided was Congress kind enough as to make him a compliment of the commission he is now intitled to receive in france this of Colonel — that is an idea which I wanted to communicate to you.

You will hear soon of a very disagreable affair concerning Gal Lee upon which I need not to be particular, but am very sorry any event of that kind might have taken place.

With the highest regard and sincere affection I have the honor to be

Dear Sir

Your most obedient servant

The Mis de Lafayette

74 b

July 2d 1778

La Fayette

To

The honorable Richard Henry Lee Esqr.

Member of Congress

at Philadelphia

Mons. le Comte d'Estaing —

Copy of a Paper given in to the Commissioners by Capt. Jones of the Ranger July 3d. 1778

Being informed from good authority that the Minister desired much to converse with me on a subject of great utility to the United States of America — as there was then no prospect of obtaining permission to sell the prizes — or of getting the prisoners exchanged soon. I thought it for the interest of the Service that I should come myself to Paris — It was necessary too that some measure should be adopted to quiet the minds of the people in the Ranger

The Minister told me his plan — But demanded my parole of Honour not to reveal it to any person whatsoever — I am not therefore at Liberty to communicate it even to you, unless you will first get me absolved of my Parole And also allow me to inform the Minister that it is what you have insisted upon knowing.

I can how-ever assure you that what has been communicated to me is perfectly consistent with my Duty as an American Officer — With the interests of the United States — and with the most disinterested friendship on the part of France — because tho' it will contribute to the success & Honor of the American arms, it will involve

America in no Expence

The Opinion of the Ministers is that the succ[ess] of this plan depends upon the most profound secrecy in the meantime — and I shall at a proper season give the most convincing proofs that it is not an Affair of my seeking — And also that my journey to Paris has been perfectly consistent with my instructions from Congress & with My Duty as an American Officer, acting from principle, & having the satisfaction to know — that my past conduct has always been honored wi[th] the most ample approbation.

Arthur Lee Esqr

Bordeaux 4 July 1778

Sir

I am honord with yours of the 24. 25. to 26. ulto In the Letter I forwarded to America with your Note of the 10th I took notice of the English Fleet being met in the Channel. by Advices from Brest Adml Byron is with Keppel we are convinct there are individuals who give inteligence of our operations but the difficulty lays to bring proof home for conviction without which our steps rebound back to our prejudice

I shall transmit samples by the next Stage of such articles as I believe you will find suitable for the service but they will not be in time to go by the first equiptment as I expect to have them all shipt say the thousand suits by the 24 Inst. your Letter for Mr E Rutledge is gon by the Ship Vernet Capt. Turpin for Carolina

who sailed the 1st Instant I refer you to the inclosed letter respecting the private Ship of War fitting out here to be commanded by Capt Monteseau and write you particularly on that head in the annexd sheet as it is probable you may lay it open in Committee. I am, with great respect

Sir
Your very Hble Servant
John Bondfield

I write by this post to the Commissrs ~~&~~ shall forward without delay the Letter for Mr Middleton just come to hand

(No 198) Passy July 4th 1778

Gentlemen

When Congress thought proper to order me to France it was proposed that the Ranger should remain under my direction and be Commanded by a Lieutenant — and as the French Ministry have now in contemplation Plans which promise Honor to the American Flag, the Ranger might be very Useful to Assist in carrying them into execution.

Lieutenant Simpson has certainly behaved amiss, yet I can forgive as well as resent — and upon his making a proper Concession, I will, with your Approbation, not only pardon the past — but leave him the Command of the Ranger. — By this means, and by some little promotions and attentions that may be consistent, I hope to be able to satisfy the Rangers Crew so that they will postpone their return as long as the Service may require.

I have the Honor to be with Sentiments of due Esteem & Respect

Gentlemen Your very Obliged very Obedient very humble Servant

Jno Paul Jones

Their Excellencies
the American Plenipotentiaries &ca

Their Excellencies

The American Plenipotentiaries

at the Court of

France.

Capt. Jones about
Lt. Simpson

(No 198)

J. P. Jones
to
Amer. Plenips.
4 July 1778.

(No 20) July 4 78

Fourniture faite à Mr le Maire par M Gau le 4 juillet 1778.

Savoir

1000 sabres complets du modèle pour Grenadier françois montant suivant le marché à la somme de . . . . 9620.#

50 haches, 800 Pichoyeaux et 600 pelles rondes montant suivant idem à . . . . 4216.# 5.s

Montant de la fourniture . . . . . 13836.# 5.s

Je soussigné Capitaine de Dragons au service de la Province de Virginie, et chargé de l'armement de ses troupes, reconois que M Gau entrepreneur de la Manufacture Royale des armes blanches de Klingenthal ma remis en conséquence du marché passé entre nous cejourd'hui la quantité de mille sabres complets pour Grenadier, cinquante haches, huit cents Pichoyeaux et six cents pelles rondes à l'usage de l'artillerie, montant le tout aux prix portés par son marché à la somme de treize mille huit cent trente six livres cinq sols suivant la notte cy dessus laquelle lui sera payée par Monsieur Lée en lui remettant le présent. à Klingenthal le 4 juillet 1778. /.

Le Maire

(No 200)

Le Maire
4th July 1778.

1778

N° 1

Monsieur

J'ay L'honneur de remettre a votre Excellence un billet a votre adresse qui m'a été envoyé par une personne habitante près des isles de Gersay et de Grenesay, et qui est chargée de faire des recherches sur L'espionnage des anglais dans nos ports. Cette Personne n'a aucun interest particulier qui puisse la determiner a donner cet avis par d'autres motifs, que ceux qui interessent essentiellement Le Commerce de L'amerique Septentrionale.

Je Suis avec le plus respectueux attachement de votre Excellence.

Monsieur

Passi ce 5 Juillet 1778.

votre tres humble et tres obeissant Serviteur
Leray de Chaumont

M. Benjamin franklin.

Monsieur. 24 Sept 78

J'ay l'honneur de remettre a votre Excellence un Billet a votre adresse qui m'a été envoyé par une Personne habitante près des Isles de Jersay et de Guernesay, et qui est chargée de faire des recherches sur l'espionnage des anglois dans nos Ports. Cette Personne n'a aucun interest particuliere qui puisse la determiner a donner cet Avis par d'autres motifs, que ceux qui interessent essentiellement le Commerce de L'Amerique septentrionale. Je suis avec le plus respectueux attachement de votre Excellence

Monsieur

Votre tres humble et tres Obeissant Serviteur

LeRay de Chaumont

Mr. Benjamin Franklin.

Copie veritable de l'original

A. Lord. fils

Quand M. Lee a chargé M. Suegasse de Nantes de l'administration des affaires des Etats Unis, il ignoroit sans doute que ce dernier eut un Gendre Negociant anglois, demeurant aussi à Nantes, nommé M. Dobrée de Grenezey, lequel a deux freres armateurs etablis dans cette Isle. Ce M. Suegasse est Suisse ou allemand, d'un age fort avancé, ne sachant pas la Langue angloise, il doit naturellement se confier a son Gendre M. Dobré pour la Lecture et la traduction des secrets qu'on est dans le cas de lui confier, de l'instruire egalement du depart et de l'arrivée des vaisseux d'amerique, ce qui fait craindre avec raison que ce M. Dobré, qui n'a aucun attachement pour la Nation, ne soit assez indiscret pour faire passer des avis à sa freres des affaires importantes qui lui passent par les Mains. On souhaite se tromper sur les Consequences qu'on peut tirer de ce qui vient d'etre dit, mais on pense que cet avis merite attention. J.

adressé. To

Monsieur Le Docteur
Franklin.

vrai Copie de l'original.
H. Ford

The Above direction (which is partly English, & partly French, and which was omitted in the former Copies sent thro' Inadvertancy) is in a hand writing very different, from that in which the Letter was wrote.

Sept. 24th 1778.

H. Ford Secty

5 Dec. 1776 ?

N.° 2

Quand Mr. Lee a chargé M. Suegasse de Nantes de l'administration des affaires des Etats unis, il ignoroit sans doute que ce dernier eut un gendre Negociant Anglois, demeurant aussi à Nantes, nommé M. Dobré de Grenezey, lequel a deux freres armateurs etablis dans cette Isle. Ce M. Suegasse est Suisse ou Allemand, d'un age fort avancé, ne sachant pas la Langue Angloise, il doit naturellement se confier à son gendre M. Dobré, pour la lecture et la traduction des Secrets qu'on est dans le cas de lui confier, de l'instruire egalement du depart et de l'arrivée des Vaisseaux d'Amerique, ce qui fait craindre avec raison que ce M. Dobré, qui n'a aucun attachement pour la Nation, ne soit assez indiscret pour faire passer des avis à ses freres des affaires importantes qui lui passent par les mains. On souhaite se tromper sur les consequences qu'on peut tirer de ce qui vient d'etre dit, mais on pense que cet avis merite attention.

N B. turn over & examine the direction

(No 236)

My dear Brother, Philadelphia 5th July 1778

I wrote you four days ago by Mr. Armstead who promised to send the letter to Mount Airy by his Servant from Fredericksburg - Since that we have had a more accurate account of the battle in the Jerseys from Gen. Washington - The number of the enemies dead buried by our people was 252, and several graves besides on the field in which they had buried their dead during the Action - Upon the whole, the battle was fairly won by our Army & the best troops of Britain beaten in an open field - The whole loss of the enemy in killed, wounded, & deserters is at least 3000 since they left this City. The American Army is now at Brunswick and will presently proceed to the North river - Gen. Conway came here the other day, and having been informed of some disrespectful words spoken of him by Gen. Cadwallader, the former challenged the latter and they met on the Common yesterday morn. They threw up for the first fire & Cadwallader won it - at the distance of 12 paces he fired and shot Conway thro the side of the face, on which he fell & was carried off the field - He is supposed not to be in danger unless an unforeseen inflamation should produce it. We had a magnificent celebration of the anniversary of Independence yesterday, when handsome fireworks were displayed - The Whigs of the City dressed up a Woman of the Town with the Monstrous head dress of the Tory Ladies and escorted her thro the Town with a great concourse of people - Her head was elegantly & expensively dressed I suppose about three feet high and of proportionable width, with a profusion of curls &c. &c. &c. - The figure was droll and occasioned much mirth - It has lessened some heads already, and will probably bring the rest within the bounds of reason, for they are monstrous indeed - The Tory wife of Dr. Smith, has christened

their figure Contimella, or the Dutchess of Independence, and prayed for a pin from her head by way of Relick. The Tory women are very much mortified notwithstanding this — As we have left York, and Dunlap publishes a Gazette here, I have entered your name with him instead of Hall & Sellers, & I shall pay him for your years papers — I have directed him to send me your paper weekly, whilst I stay, that I may inclose it to you — We have heard nothing from the English Commissioners since our answer from York, and I suppose they conclude us less liable to be amused since the late drubbing we have given their Army. I this day went round the enemies lines — They pass from Delaware to Schuylkill so as to include Govr. Hamiltons House about 200 yards within the line, and consist of very strong Redoubts at a quarter of a mile distant from each other, and the spaces between guarded by very thick Abbatees made of Apple Trees just staked down, and the ends of the twigs sharpened — All the houses, except Bush Hill, for a considerable distance without & within the lines are burnt down — My love to Mrs. Lee and kind remembrance to all friends in Richmond —

I am most affectionately yours

Richard Henry Lee

Francis Lightfoot Lee esquire
of Menokin in Richmond County
To the care of the Post Master at
Leeds Town in Westmoreland County

R. H. Lee

Virginia

The Post Master at Leeds is desired to
forward this letter by the Chantilly Rider. —

No. 231

R.H. Lee to F. Lightfoot Lee
July 5th 1778
No 336
(~~No. 231~~)
Copy enter'd

240
36
280
5
140 0 0
1140 0 0
111 6/6.8

1000
333 1/3
333 1/3
4666 2/3
188
12
360

Versailles 5. Juillet 1778.

Comme je suis dans le cas, Messieurs, d'avoir besoin du Capitaine Jones pour quelqu'expédition particulière, je desirerois qu'il pût rester ici. Si vous n'y voyez point d'inconvénient, vous me ferez plaisir de le laisser à ma disposition et de donner le Commandement de son Batiment à son Second s'il doit retourner en amérique.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec beaucoup de considération, Messieurs, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur.

De Sartine

Mrs les Députés des Etats unis.

(Sentence in S.^{to} 6th July 1778)

The prize Britannia & cargo confiscated, 1/2 to the King & tho.^r moytie to the Judge & informer equally, in virtue of the first wrong report from Am.^a & no pass or register. Cap.^n Allen & Comp.^y pardond the punishm.^t due for s.^d second wrong report, in consideration of their tedious confinem.^t but to continue prisoners untill they refund to the all the money supply'd for their maintenance, & th full liberty — The brig.^t & materiales to be sold by the soonest possible; to avoid greater damage & charges & its n.^t produce to the deposite —

Cap.^n Wood's claime and pretention to hir, declard malicio and he condemnd to perpetual silence.

No Condemnation in costs or damages, but each party, to pay his particular charges; & them of Office, out of the fund or deposite.

The appeal, if any, not to obstruct or delay the sale of the vess.^l and materials. ——

(No 237) July 7 - 1778

My dear Sir

Notwithstanding the great Anxiety under which we labour to hear what has been done, or what is doing by the Armies in Jersey, the Post has baulked our Expectations by not comeing in last Night. We hear many various Reports, we are told of Engagements, in which sometimes the Enemy are victorious, & then our Arms are successful. Do, my dear Col. relieve us from our present Suspence by giving us an exact Account of the Situation & Operation of the two Armies. We are told that Congress has adjourned to Philadelphia, are you not in some Danger of being put to flight again? besides I should think the City could hardly be sufficiently cleansed for your Reception. Have the Commissioners from the Court of London returned home satisfied with their first Answer from Congress, or have they again solicited to be heard? What Prospect have you of G. B. being engaged in an European War?

I am, my dear Sir, with great Respect

your affectionate

Mann Page Jun.

Mannsfield
July 7th 1778

(No 237)

Mann Page Jun. Esq.

July 7th '78

~~No. 373.~~

Richard Henry Lee Esquire

in Congress

William Lee Esq: at Vienna.

Sir, (Copy) Nantes 7 July 1778.

Tis some time since I had the honor of writing you, during which space have been deprived of your much esteemd favors. This serves to inclose you Invoice of the 116 doz cards sent ℘ your order to R: Colston Esq: amtg (with all charges included) to £3105.– for which you'll please Credit my Accᵗ. The Warrior, on board of whom they were shipd saild the 18 or 20 last month, I doubt not but she will soon reach her desired port.

You will see that I obtaind these cards mixd half Cotton & half wool, for 20ᵗᵗ ℘ doz, which is certainly cheap for the work, Capt: Haynes is actually at Paimbœuf waiting the wind to put to Sea, the Ship of War the Providence, Capt. Whipple arrive here some time ago, with a Prise loaded with port wine, Said Ship is actually refitting & taking in the Slops necessary to

proceed on her Station, the Boston has likewise put into L'Orient with three Prises which I have orderd my Correspondent at said Port to sell the most advantageously possible, there are two of these vessels loaded with salt & the other with Coals.

I am Sir,

Your most Obedient & most hum Serv.t

Nantz the 11 June 1778.

Invoice of 6 Chests cards, (half wool & half cotton) bought by order of William Lee Esq: for account & risque of Raleigh Colston Esq: & consigned to Mess.rs Lory & Plombard & C.o at Cape François by the Ship the Warrior, Capt. Berthault, viz

RC N.o 1 a 6	6 Chests containing N.o 1 . 14 2 . 14 3 . 14 4 . 14 5 . 30 6 . 30 116 doz Cards at 20.lt ₩ doz	£ 2320. – –
	Charges.	
	the 6 Chests & packing . . . . £ 52. – –	
	Carriage on board & lighterage . 12. – –	
	freight paid here . . . . 300. – –	
	Insurance on £ 3000 at 12 ₩ % . 360. – –	
		724. – –
		£ 3044. – –
	my Commission at 2 ₩ %	61. – –
		£ 3105. – –

Mardi 7. Juillet 1778.
Paris

Copie pour M. f . . .

M.

J'ai l'honneur de vous rendre compte qu'en conséquence des Lettre et Notte ci-jointes de M. le Cte. de Vergennes, je me suis transporté hier à onze heures à l'Eglise de Notre-Dame avec trois hommes de confiance que j'avois postés dedans et dehors, à l'effet d'observer l'étranger qu'il intéresse de connoître et les personnes qui seroient venües l'accoster.

A midi précis cet étranger est arrivé à l'Eglise; Il s'est approché de la grille qui est à gauche du Choeur. Un homme qui ballayoit le Choeur est venu lui offrir de lui faire voir les Chapelles; Il en a fait ouvrir 7. ou 8. et le Balayeur s'est retiré; ensuite l'étranger a tiré de sa poche du papier et un Crayon, s'est promené autour du Choeur, ayant l'air d'examiner les Chapelles, et griffonoit ou écrivoit par instants; A une heure et un quart, ne voyant venir personne, il a remis son papier et son crayon dans sa poche et est sorti; Il a passé par le Marché Neuf, le Pont St. Michel, le Quay de la Vallée, les rues Gilles-Coeur, de l'hirondelle, le Pont St. Michel, les rues de la vieille Bouclerie, de la harpe, percée, du Battoir, de l'Eperon, la Cour du Commerce, les rües St. André des Arts, de Buxy, de Bourbon Chateau, l'abbaye St. Germain, les rues du Colombier et Jacob à l'hôtel d'hambourg où il est entré.

Comme le Maître de cet hôtel n'est tout à fait dévoüé, je

n'ai point hésité à aller prendre des éclaircissemens auprès de lui, et j'ai appris que cet étranger est M. Jennings qui étoit Capitaine aux Gardes du Roi d'Angleterre il y a quatre ou cinq ans; Son Père a été Ministre en quelque Cour étrangère. Il est arrivé ici le 20. du mois dernier venant de Bordeaux et doit partir demain ou Jeudi pour retourner en Angleterre; C'est un homme fort sombre et qui ne voit personne chez lui; Il sort ordinairement le matin vers huit heures seul et à pied, rentre pour diner et se sert de sa voiture l'après diner; Il va souvent au Spectacle au sortir duquel il rentre chez lui pour ne plus sortir; Il a été hier aux Italiens.

M. Jennings paroit être agé de 36. à 40. ans, taille de 5. pieds 2. pouces, les cheveux extrêmement blonds, noüés en Catogan, fort maigre de visage et le teint basanné; Il étoit hier vêtu d'un habit gris, veste bla[nche] et culotte noire, le Chapeau retappé à l'Angloise, [portant] une Canne.

Il s'est arrêté hier pour venir de Nôtre-Dame chez lui, à presque tous les coins des rües pour lire les affiches et il avoit l'air rêveur./.

The above is doubtless a fabrication

Arthur Lee Esq.r Bilbao the 8th Jully 1778

Honoured Sir

Our last salutations waitted on your good self on the 27th ult.o since which as continue deprived of your allways very Esteemed & agreable favours, the present Chiefly serves (as hintted in our former) to recommend to your accostumed punctuall care the paymment of five bills which have this day taken the freedome to value on your Account as Ballance thereof on Mr Le Grand of Paris ammountting in all as ꝑ particulars at foott to £24654. 17 souls Tournois which duelly Ballances your Account as you will see by the within abstract thereof, on receipt whereof beg you would be pleased order the same to be Examined, & if free from Errors notte the like in our Conformity giving us advice thereof.

We have the pleasure to informe you that we goe on collectting very Speedly the Blanketts, Shoes & Stockings to be shipt on the old plan, & our Brother at Madrid having also communicatted us your directions to Invest as farr as 30000 Livers on Account of a freind of yours, in Coarse Woollens, Linnens, Shoes, Stockings & Navall Stores, all those Articles as farr as the above Sum, or even more we have the satisfaction to advice you may be gott ready with us in less than 6 days, butt as we have no American Vessell in port, we only want your orders & permition to ship off as well the order on the old footting, as this new one on Spanish Bottoms or either French, as have & Can have those opportunitys when ever we please, there being also at present in the river a Frenchman & at least one or Two of our Nation fixing for that part of the World therefore hope you will be kind enough to give us your oppinion & answer by the returne of post without faile.

By a letter Just Received from your Quarters by the way of Cadiz we have had the pleasing advice that Capt. Duppree & Knight had safely reached home, as such flatter ourselves that those that sailed before mett the like good fatte.

The Guernsey & Jersey Privateers very often dismiss & send on Shoare the Crews of the Vessells they take, & altho' we supply those people with Charity, have the mortification to see them very often beging to be mantained, which we leave to your prudent concideration, in hopes that you will be pleased to authorize us to give some thing to those poor fellows of which there is also at present some straggling about the Towns.

We Sincerely Salutte you Cordially remmain

Honoured Sir

your most obt. hble Servts.

Joseph Gardoqui & sons

Bills drawn this day on Mr. Legrand at 75 days datte

Livers	15300.	favour of Mr. Salvador de la Azuela
	2700.	
	2000.	
Livers	20,000 "	Exch. at 77½ souls p dollar rials 7722. 32.
Livers	3149. 4.	favour of Mr. Miguel Luis de Ugarte
	1505. 13.	
Livers	4654. 17.	Ex. at 77½ souls p dollar rials 1809. 11

May 11.[12]	3.[ac]	22500
June 11.	1[o]	22500
15	3[ac]	20000
18	3	20000
18	3	20300
18	3	19900
18	3	19800
22.[d]	2	22500
25[d]	2	20000
		187500

To the Honble. B. Franklin, John Adams and A. Lee at Passy
(No 201) Cadiz July 10th 1778

Honble. Gentlemen

By Yesterdays Post I had the honor of receiving your Letter of the 19th of April. What could have occasioned its not reaching my hands before now, I cannot say, unless the Person who was entrusted with sending it by the Post might have detained it to answer some particular purpose. You inform me in your letter that I am charged in your Bankers account with upwards of one hundred thousand livres of the public Money for which there is no account from me among the Papers left by Mr. Deane. I have the happiness to inform you that I not only gave to Mr. Deane an account of what Money I received, and of what I paid, but likewise the accounts of my Merchants at Dunkirk, nay, every Bill, even to the minutest article furnished the two small Vessels that I fitted out at Dunkirk. I have likewise the honor to inform you, that in all the charges I have brought against the two Vessels you will not find a single one made by myself, unless the poor trifling 2½ ₽ Cent (which did not half pay my expences attending the fatiguing job I had during my stay at Dunkirk) the charges being all made by the Merchants who I was ordered to employ, and who produced me the Accounts of every tradesman, which I gave into Mr. Deanes hands. I should not tu this particular was not your letter full of insinuations respecting my honesty which I look upon as ungenerous, and which I will prove to be without foundation. I gave double receipts for every farthing of Public Money that I received at Dunkirk, of consequence there can be no mistake in regard of the sum which I have received I shall inclose you for your satisfaction Gentlemen, the accounts of the Monies I received, and of what I paid; by which you will find that there was a balance due me, as I was only accountable for one quarter of the Cutter, the other quarter belongs to Messrs. Conyngham and Deane, for which Mr. Deane was accountable. It is very probable that Mr. Deane has taken all the papers relative to the Cutter and Lugger with him, as neither Dr. Franklin nor Mr. Lee would have any thing to say to the two little Expeditions from Dunkirk, of consequence Mr. Deane thinking himself accountable to the Congress, he would undoubtedly take all the Accounts with him.

I have it from the very best authority that Mr. A. Lee has wrote to Congress and informed them that I had received large sums of Public Money, and that he could not learn to what use it was converted. It is true that I had received some Public Monies, but as Mr. Lee complained that he could not get sufficient for his expences, private Persons were obliged to make use of their Money, as there was not sufficient of the Public's for the purpose intended. I blush when I think of the Congress being concerned with private Persons in an armed Vessel, but Mr. Lee has wrote to all his correspondents in Spain, that the Congress & and I was concerned in a small Privateer, & that in case of any Prizes coming into Spain, they should only pay me one half of the Prize Money: the other half to be remitted to him at Paris; not considering that the Crew wanted

wanted their part, besides the great expence attending armed Vessels. I am not a stranger Gentlemen, to the little disputes that have happened at Paris, Nantes, and elsewhere since I left France, and I am sorry that I am like to make one of the number; all owing to a certain Gentleman whose characteristic is that of being a dissatisfied, troublesome Man.

I shall now Gentlemen give you an account of my conduct since my arrival in Spain. As to my claim of the Cutter as the property of Mr. John Ross and myself, I made it from the best authority, as it was in consequence of an Order given me by Silas Deane Esqr. a Gentleman equally empowered (at that time in matters respecting Public business as yourselves I am greatly surprized to find Dr. Franklins' name at the bottom of your letter, as his honor not only gave his consent, but advised Mr. Deane to dispose of the Cutter in the manner he has done. This I know to be the case as I seen Mr. Deane speaking to Dr. Franklin upon the subject. Gentlemen, As Mr. Deane has made over to Mr. Ross and myself all right and title to the Cutter, which we have from under his own hand, he gave Captain Conyngham orders to deliver the aforesaid Vessel up entirely to our management, and to put himself under our directions, which he has done, and still intends to do, as both he and myself act from good authority, and in case of any bad consequences, Mr. Deane and not us that are accountable.

Dr. Franklin and Mr. Deane gave this Vessel up into our hands, as great expences was likely to be incurred, as well as much trouble to the Commissioners. She being upwards of two thirds of her time in Port before my arrival in Spain. The Merchant at Corunna has acted from the same authority as Captain Conyngham from whom I received a sum of Money which was by no means sufficient to pay the Peoples Wages and their part of the Prize Money. I have likewise received other Monies which I have paid to the Officers and Crew, but still it has not been sufficient to satisfy them, as they have insisted on their part of all Prizes they have taken, altho' the greatest part of the nt. Proceeds of Prizes has been stopped in Spain, in consequence of Captain Conynghams' unfortunately taking a French Brig from London and sent into St. Sebastian. As to my assuming to myself the produce of Prizes, I declare it to be false, and without the least foundation, for I do assure you I have not received one Dollar of the Prize Money more than has paid my trifling expences, which, Gentlemen I will one day prove by the dates and sums of Money I have received, & by the dates and sums I have paid, for all of which I have Accounts and receipts for every Dollar, which I defy Man to call in question. In the distribution of Prize Money I settled it agreably to the rules and regulations of Congress, which Book of regulations I had with me; and had I settled it in any other manner, I think then I should have been liable to have been called to an Account. As to the Ships' Company complaining of injustice in the settlement of their Accounts, I value it not, as it has been the case that every Ships' Company has complained of injustice in the settlement of their Accounts of every armed Vessel that has been fitted out since the commencement of the War, and generally without foundation. It matters but little to me what are their complaints, as I have taken receipts from each of them for what, and in what manner I have settled with them. The Vessel being abandoned in consequence of my conduct, is without the least foundation as well as

all

all the rest, for upon my arrival in Spain I found a number of Captain Conyngham's Men in Prison at St. Bastiens, in consequence of his taking a French Brig. A considerable number at Bilboa and other small Towns, and the Vessel left destitute of hands, having only a few Officers on board, who were obliged to wear their Arms to prevent a few French Marines from going ashore, and had I not arrived in Spain the Cutter would have remained in the Harbor until this day, for Captain Conyngham was so destitute of Men, that he made an offer of giving the command of his Vessel to the Captain of the New England Privateer that was at Bilboa.

Now Gentlemen, conscious of the uprightness of my conduct, and the regularity of my proceedings, I leave you to determine upon the justice of the complaints. I have given you an account of my proceedings, and by what orders I have acted. As to your giving Captain Conyngham his future Orders Gentlemen you could not do it, even was the one half of the Cutter belonging to the Public, without my consent, as it would be more than the King of England would dare to do, in regard to the property of any one of his Subjects in like circumstances. As I have settled with the crews of the Privateer agreeable to the Book of regulations (which Captain Conyngham has) I shall make no other distributions amongst them, but shall leave the whole affair to be settled by Congress, when, as some of them understand business they will find that I have neither made any deduction or reservations but what are clearly just. We have had it reported for some days past that Captain Conyngham is taken, but I hope it is without foundation. I intended sailing for America in a few days, but in consequence of your Letter I have concluded if possible to proceed to France, when I shall have it in my power to inform you of every particular, and to convince you of the regularity of my conduct.

I Am with the greatest respect &c.

(signed) William Hodge

N. B.

The Prizes lately sent into Spain by Captain Conyngham are stopped by order of the Spanish Court, in consequence of his taking the French Brig that is at St. Sebastiens.

(No 301)

Wm Hodge to Messrs Franklin Adams and Lee — Cadiz 10th July 1778 — with his Acct.

July 10th: 1778

(Not among the Defensive Papers of A. Lee)

Dear Sir

Wmsburg July 9. 10th. 1778

I was at Home when the Post brought your Letter & therefore could not acknowledge the Receipt of it by its Return - but snatch a Moment by the Return of this Weeks Post to thank you for your Letter & Paper inclosed - I am highly pleased with the "Answer of Congress to the british Commissioners, it was a glorious Contrast to their Proposals ~~of the Commissioners~~ - I heartily congratulate you on the Retreat of the british Army from Philada. & on your return to that City - & hope shortly to have the Pleasure to congratulate you on their total Defeat or Capitulation at Least - The sooner we can be informed of the Defeat or Escape of the Enemy the better, because I should think in either Case we might lay aside the extravagant Scheme of the Volunteer Horse & Foot - I wrote a few Lines Yesterday to your Brother the Doctr. in France inclosing him the latest Pennsylvania Papers & the Handbill giving an Account of the Flight & Defeat of the british Army & sent my Letter by a Vessel which will sail in two or three Days - the Govr. sent by the same Opportunity some Letters & Dispatches I believe from Congress -

I am Dear Sir Your affectionate hble Servt.

John Page

John Jay
July 10th 1778

To Richd. Henry Lee Esqr.
A Delegate
in Congress
at
Philadelphia

No 3

A M. M. le Rey de Chaumont.

Chaillot 12 Juillet 1778.

La Lettre que vous avez envoyés à Monsr. le Docteur Franklin, relativement a Monsr. Schweighauser & son gendre Monsr. Dobie, avec la votre du 5 de ce moisci, m'etoit remise hier. Je vois que la Lettre est sans date & sans nom. Avant que je peus prendre des Informa-tions ulterieurs la dessus, il me faut le Nom de celui qui a donné l'avis que vous avez eu la bonte de re-mettre a Monsr. Franklin. Car Je suis persuadé que vous seriez d'avis avec moi qu'une soupçon qui peut ruiner Monsr. Schweighauser & sa Famile pour Toujours, ne doit pas etre si legerement reçeu; au même tems une accusation si grave ayante été mise devant nous, doit neccessairment etre communiquée au Ministre, ce que Je ferai le Moment que vous m'avez fait part du nom & de la demeure de l'accusateur.

En attendant votre reponse, J'ai l'honneur &c.

True Copy A. Lee

My dear Brother, №238 Menokin July 12. 1778

The last post, which left York the 29 or 30 Ulto. brot me no letter from you. I mention it, that, if you wrote, it may be enquired into. We have here an Acct., which comes so, as to gain belief, that there has been a severe engagemt. in the Jerseys, in which the Enemy has been much discomfitted, & have retreated to Black Point, with the loss of great part of their baggage & artillery. You may be sure, there is great impatience here to know the truth of this report. I find the people in this part of the Country, not in the least hurt by the war. they are better cloathed; & I think bettered in every circumstance. but there is a lamentable indolence, & inattention to public affairs, in the Gentn. which leaves the people open to the Arts of every designing rascal; and has occasioned some discontents, & an aversion to entering into the Army. The weather is so excessive hot, that I have not been able to do so much towards setting things right, as I could wish; but from what I have seen, I am sure, the people only want to be well informed,

to do every thing that is desired of them.

Prepare Concert
The V74 a 1 which two of the 218 b 41 are playing
Congress
at 99 a XVII is so barefaced, that I am surprised any
Member that 67 a X body blind
239. b XXXVIII of [redacted] should be so 418 a XVIII as to be
imposed on it
183 a XXX I ed by them. As you know them to be in 380 a XXXIII
Decree Scheme Trade
with 115 b XXXVIII; & engaged in the 327 a XIV to 321 b VI those
Deceit Villany
who are likely to 123 a XXXVII their 392 b XXX; if the 241 a VI
Objects Plot
should relate to either of these 258 a XII s the 282 b VIII will
Principal Fate
be very plain, & they I hope, & their 291 b XXVIII, meet the 158 a XXXII
deserve
they 122 a XXXV. I think you have enough of hieroglyphics. —

Suppose Mr. H— r was asked, if any American, & which of them, is concerned with him, in commerce to this Country I fancy he must either make a discovery, or subject himself to be proved a Liar. Are the Accts. in France, ordered to be settled, & sent to Congress, with the proper vouchers?

I am obliged to you for settling my affair with the board of War. the money you will please to keep, till I determine what to do with it. I have an Acct. with Hiltzhamer, who kept the Continental Stables in Phila. which I should be glad you would pay, if you see him, one article is a Horse, I bot of the public for which, I was to give £25. — If you shd. meet with any good hand coming this way, who will take charge of my bark, please to send it. if you want any of it, I hope you will not hesitate to use it. my best compts. to Col. Plater & his Lady, & my bror. Delegates. tell them I would certainly write to them, if I had any thing more to say, than that we are well. I wish to be remembered to my fr. Mr. Adams

& his brethren, & my other acquaintances in
Congress. is Mr. Duer still with you? I think if the
pretended Messenger is not confined, untill intelli-
gence can be had from his Court, we shall be laughed
at by all the world, & be the dupes of all the adventurers
in Europe. Yrs affly Francis Lightfoot Lee

ne

all

ch

4;

d

(N° 238)

~~N°. 5~~ ~~8~~. 222

July 12th 1778.

7 L. Lee 15 July
oed Hilsymers'
e cd. Answerd
... olayrie?

[illegible] (No 239)

My dear brother,

Philadelphia 12 July 1778

I had prepared a letter for you three days ago intending to have sent it to Chantilly by a Mr Muse, but he slipt me without calling for my letter. Since that the Count D'Esteing, with a french Squadron under his command has arrived in Delaware Bay, and last thursday morning he proceeded to N. York with determination to loose no time in attacking the English in that Harbour. On the 19th of May he declared war against G. Britain on board his fleet then at Sea, and since that, he takes every English Vessel that he meets with. The strength of this fleet is one 90, one 80, Six 74. Three 64 & one 50 with 4 frigates and between 10 & 12,000 men on board— In this fleet came the french Ambassador Monsr Gerard who is expected in Town every hour Carriages being sent to Chester for him. Silas Deane is also arrived in this fleet, and I expect that he & Carmichael will soon begin to intrigue. We have received a very polite Address from the Count D'Esteing inclosing us a copy of his powers from the King of France which are plenepotentiary to treat with Congress. The King styles us his most dear friends and great Allies. The Count says that nothing but the necessity of immediately executing the duties of his Office as Commander of the Fleet would have permitted him to delay paying his respects to Men famous thro Europe for their wisdom and firmness. We have been very busy in Marine Committee this morning, altho tis Sunday, directing fresh provisions and Water to be sent to this fleet. Gen. Washington is directed to Cooperate with Count D'Esteing in offensive operations against the common enemy. We may expect good events from this if (Keppel) Keppel with his 11 Sail of the Line do not interrupt us too soon. He was in St Helens the 19th

[illegible] bound to N. America. But we expect he will be narrowly watched by the Brest fleet which consisted of 25 Sail of the Line ready for Sea. Thus the Ball begins to open, and the guilty Sons of G. Britain upon the eve of making severe retribution for the heavy crimes both in the east and the west. The Ambassador is arrived, and during the course of dinner I have had an opportunity of conversing largely with him. I find that the King of France considers the King of Englands message upon Marquis Noailles [illegible] communication of our Alliance as announcing hostility and determines to act accordingly — With effective hostility indeed, but witht. any formal declaration of war in Europe, for this he says, we must wait until Spain is ready — The flota was not arrived on the 10th April. Monsr. Gerard seems rather above 50 years of age, is as grave as a Frenchman can be, and he is a wise well bred Gentleman. We are told that many of the first Nobility of France solicited his mission in vain.

I am much grieved to hear that my honored friend Colo. Tayloe grows worse — Is it impracticable for him to visit the Springs — The Indian incursions I expect will be presently quieted by the Army under Mc. Intosh going to Fort Detroit, and the expedition into the Seneca Country. These must call and keep every Indian at home.

My love to Mrs. Lee and respects to all friends.

Most affectionately yours

Richard Henry Lee

P. S. The post this day brings me no letter from the N. [illegible] except from my friend Mr. Page I have none from Rappahannock or Potomac — From Boston we learn of a quick arrival that brings account Lord Chatham died on the 1st of May, he was forming a party against the Independence of America, which he has lately thundered against in Parliament and was opposed by the Duke of Richmond with great spirit & force of reason — Stocks fallen greatly, and the Kingdom in much confusion — 40 frigates recalled from N. America — But Coun[illegible] the Harbor of N. York [illegible] wont let them get out of [illegible] true that Capt. Jones has carried a 20 gun Ship of the Tyrants into Brest with 3 other prizes — He had a severe conflict with the Ship of War & killed the Captain & first Lieutenant, killed & wounded 42 men — Lost 8 — He landed at Whitehaven & fired the shipping in the Harbour, and did them other damage, where he also spiked 30 or 40 pieces of Cannon.

R. H. Lee

R.H. Lee
to
F.L. Lee
July 12th 1778

(~~No 188~~)
(No 339)

no 188

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esq
of Manokin – To the care of the
Post Master at Leeds Town in
Westmoreland County

R.H. Lee

Virginia

The Post Master at Leeds is
requested to send this Letter by the Chance

1778

N.° 4

Monsieur

C'est a M. Franklin que J'ay remis la Notte sur laquelle vous me faittes l'honneur de m'ecrire. Je luy ay Justifié que Je etois chargé de la luy remettre.

puisque cette Notte, Monsieur, a passé en vos mains, si elle est fausse Je feray Connoitre la personne qui me l'a envoyée, si elle est vraye Je ne sens pas la Necessité que cette personne soit connue.

Le fait dont il s'agit n'est pas difficil a constater, si le garde de la Maison est de gersay ou greneay et qu'il y ait des Parents, sur St. Patrice la Notte est vraye.

Je suis avec la plus haute consideration

Monsieur

Passi ce 19 Juillet 1778.

Votre tres humble et tres obeissant serviteur
Leray de Chaumont

A Monsr.

Monsr. Arthur Lee Ministre plenipotentiaire du Congres americain

A son Excellence,

Monsieur Arthur Lee,

Ministre Plenipotentiaire des Etats unis

de l'Amerique

Nous avons l'honneur de remettre très humblement à Votre Excellence la lettre cy jointe dont nous sommes chargés de la part du Capitaine Samuel Tucker commandant la fregatte Le Boston & qui depuis le 2 de ce mois se trouve dans notre Rade.

Notre associé Commanditaire Mr. Jean Daniel Schweighauser, à Nantes nous ayant adressé le susdit Capitaine. Nous sommes de plus

empressés de luy rendre tous les services qui dependront de nous & ce sera avec un plaisir infini que nous luy ferons les avances & fournitures que les besoins de la fregatte demandent & qui suivant la notte que nous avons déja en mains ne sont pas Considerables.

Quant à ses deux prises Consistant en Morüe seche, Charbon de terre, & Bouteilles, nous tacherons de les vendre au plus haut prix possible & la reussite de cette operation prouvera à tous égards notre probité ainsi que notre

Zele dans les affaires.

Nous sommes avec le plus profond Respect

de Votre Excellence

Les très humbles & très obeissants Serviteurs

L'orient le 13 Juillet 1778.

Puchelberg & Co.

No 3 13 July 78

Thornton Esq

Mr Ridley No 4 Lewis Chambers

3

My dear Friend I am sorry & very much so not to meet you oftener, shall you be at home between one & two, I'll attend you. with regard to the 20 Guineas I'll be obliged to you to return them to my Father instead of me. I got a small Packet to trouble you with before you go Adieu.

The above Note, I verily believe, to be the hand writing of Mr Saml Wharton, 13 July 1778

[illegible]

Hon. Arthur Lee Esqr

Paris

Bordeaux 11 July 1778

Sir yesterday I recd from my friend Dn Pedro de Larralde diustegui & Son of S. Sebastian the Inclosd Papers giving me accot of the Confiscation of my Prize at S. Sebastian; as I have appeald from the Very Partial Sentence of that court which adjudges to its own Emolumt. to the Councill of Warr at Madrid permitt me to beg your Intrest with the Count de Arranda in my behalf he must be Sensible that our entring the Vessell as from America was not with any design to defraud the revenue of Spain but purely to hinder the Embasador of England grounding a Complaint of their receiving Prizes I am very Sure the Genl. of Sansebastian with his Secretary who

(who in fact is not only Informer but Judge the other being only Nominal) will make all the Interest possible at Court against me, and I am told France is not the only Part of the World where friends are very Necessary to Procure Justice — even if they have the Letter of the Law in their favour I think they cannot have the Spirit therefore I hope if this affair should be Properly represented by you in conjunction with the Ambassador of Spain I shall have some restitution made me — Mr. Dufourg has lost his cause and they will not admitt his appeal which I think a Rather more barefaced piece of Injustice than mine —— as the Flota is now safe arrived I hope affairs in Spain will take a Turn in our favr. If not we shall have small encouragement to carry on any comerce with them I shall set off from hence for St. Sebastian Tomorrow & from thence shall send you a Copy of the Sentence of the Court in full I am Sir with the Greatest respect. Yr. Most Obt. Servt.

Jno. Emery

Arthur Lee Esqr.

(No 202)

Dear Uncle, Nante 14 July 1778.

Yours of the 2d Instant is now before me, which should have answered before this but waited till I could advise you the departure of the Suit of Regimentals by the Messager which leaves this but once a Week for Paris; They are addressed to Mr. Grand. I note also the rest of your Letter. I can't help mentioning the following circumstance. Mr. Ross had 15 Tons of Gun Powder bought on his private account for to ship to America, which by some meanes was left here and has ever since been in a Magazine at Paimbouf; this Powder he now intends passing to the public Acct. as you will see by Mr. Schweighausers Letter of this Day to the Commissioners. This Powder must certainly have lost its force in a great measure. Pray send Miss Schweighausers Song as soon as you get it. With my love to my Brother I remain dear Uncle your ever dutiful Nephew & very Hble Servt. T. Lee

Thos Lee to A. Lee
July 14th. 78.

(No 202)

Thos Lee on
J. Ross's roguery
July 14. 1778

Ross. Gunpowder

A Monsieur

Monsieur Arthur Lee
No. 5 Rue Bataille
à Chaillot
près
Paris

Nantes July 10th 1776

Dear Sir

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 4th Inst. I attributed my not having the pleasure of hearing from you to the cause which you ascribe. I flattered myself that I should have been at Sea sometime since, and which would have been the case, if some unexpected occurrences had not intervened. indeed, I had engaged my passage, and the Vessel was equipped, and just ready for departure when the Owners determined not to send her. Mr Lloyd being resolved to accompany me, it is difficult to find a suitable conveyance. Mr Blake, and myself are upon the look out, with a resolution to embrace the first tolerable convenient one when we have fixed you may depend upon hearing from me—

I am glad your despatches are arrived and I pray God! that they may produce the wished for effect. be assured, that I shall be happy to render myself serviceable to a Country whose Interest, and prosperity, I have

most sincerely at heart Mrs. Lloyd and your friends here present their respectful Compts to you, and I have the honour to be with great regard

Dear Sir

Your most Obedt Servt

John Lloyd

Rennes le 14 Juillet 1778

Rien nepouvoit, Monsieur, me faire plus de plaisir que de recevoir une marque de l'honneur de votre Souvenir et de votre amitié. J'en ai eu ensuitte un tres vif en lisant les bonnes nouvelles que vous avez eu la bonté de m'aprendre. — Voilà Mr Washington n'ayant plus qu'un seul point a veiller et a meme de reunir toutes ses forces. Il me paroit que cecy ne peut pas etre long desormais

Vous savez notre flotte en mer. Je ne crois pas qu'elle trouve Mr Keppel. Si j'avois eté a portée de vous mander les nouvelles, vous ne les auriez pas apprises par un autre mais nos lettres de Rennes n'arrivent a paris que trois jours apres celles de Brest.

J'ay eu une lettre de mylord Shelburne qui m'explique tres bien le ce qu'il a dit et comment le Gazetier de l'europe qui s'annonce pour n'etre pas de ses amis lui a tiré les impertinances qu'il lui a fait dire. Je l'ay lue avec beaucoup de plaisir non pas tant parce que ce pretendu discours avoit d'offensant pour nous que parce qu'il me paroissoit indigne de celui a qui on le pretoit

J'ay l'honneur d'etre avec un tres sincere attachement Monsieur votre tres humble & tres obeiss. serviteur Fairfield

Vous avez Monsieur adressé votre Lettre a Rheims par distraction. C'est a Rennes que je suis le nom de Bretagne que vous y avez ajouté a fait arriver la lettre a sa destination.

Je vous assure qu'on n'est pas moins americain icy qu'a paris.

Arthur Lee to R. H. Lee,
Paris, July 15th 1778

"I beseech you to attend to the movements of his (Franklin's) partizans with you, as I am sure his object will be to ~~[illegible]~~ destroy all those, who stand in the way here of his absolute control, and the putting everything into the hands of his relations & flatterers to plunder at pleasure.

"His object as to himself here is, and has always been to be considered the soul of all this business; the Solon & the Dictator of America. For this purpose he has everywhere persons to puff him and chaunt his praises in all public prints, for which they are rewarded by recommendations to America, or some job here, but never at his own expense. With all this he is the most intolerant of any character or independency in others, of any person I ever knew. I do not say only, that no one, who is not his dependant and the abowed slave of his will, can obtain from him common civility. They cannot escape his enmity and maleficence. He has the art of covering all this with an affected moderation, which ~~together~~ with his age and his character impose wonderfully upon the world. This I will venture to affirm and pledge my honor & my credit upon, that whatever public business is put into his hands will either be totally neglected, or converted into a private job."

[Commentarium non necessarium.]

[No 205] July 15 – 1778 –

Report upon the Accounts delivered in to the Commissioners by Mr Jonathan Williams

That there are 161655.lt & 2 sols charged improperly to the Account of the Commissioners, being expended in business for which he had no orders & which was totally foreign to his duty as Agent to the Commissioners.

That this creates a Ballance at the end of May against Mr Williams of 159094.lt 5 sols, due from him to the public.

That Mr Williams having always had an Advance from the public either in the actual Ballance, or in Credit given & accepted by Mr Grand the public Banker, there ought to have been an allowance of 6 p.Ct to the public on the expenditure of this money (except in some Articles where prompt payment without the discount is customary) which upon so large a Sum as 1,128011.lt is considerable

1

That tho it appears from Mr. Deane's Letter in April 1777 that a plan for sending Dispatches in the cheapest manner, was transmitted to Mr Williams, yet from the latter end of Novr 1777, to March 1778 there are these enormous Sums charged — for Expresses 842.th 8. for postage of Letters 1858.th 11. To shew the extravagance of this it may be observed, that the whole expence of the Commission in Dispatches, postage, &c in our Bankers Account, from Febr. 1777 to March 1778, being treble the time is only 1803.th 10.

~~That tho Mr Williams says the 3600th charged to the public on account of Mercier, which the public has already paid, is on both sides of the Acct, in fact it appears on the Debtor side of the Acct. only.~~

That when Mr Williams undertook to supply the Independence, he was so far from doing his duty, that he was interfering with the business of others. He knew that vessel was addressed to the Commercl. Agents. He knew Mr William Lee, the surviving

2

commercial Agent was at Paris, & that Mr. Schweighauser who acted for him was at Nantes. ~~Neither~~ The ~~Commissioners~~ Commissioners's Agent had not any right to interfere with the Commercial Agent, & Mr. Williams well knows what injury & disturbance such interference on his part had created. He has not shewn any order from the Commissioners to supply the Independence, nor the Ranger, in both which he has therefore acted without authority, has been doing the business of the Commercial Agent, & not of the Commissioners & must therefore ~~[illegible]~~ account with him & not with them. The commercial Agent never wished nor received the advantage of disbursing of money in the hands of the public money in the hands of the Commissioners. He never interfered in that with Mr. Williams. It was therefore unjust & unpardonable in Mr. Williams to interfere with him, & the Commissioners will hardly give their approbation to such conduct.

That in the ~~account~~ of the Outfit &c of the Deane after every article of charge & expence is made

4

in the detail; there is a bumping Article of "Charges by Jon: Williams", 29719, 9, 5. & upon this a Commission of 2 p^r C^t ~~as above~~, all wch I take to be erroneous. Besides Mr Williams's charge of 2 p^r C^t Commiss^n amount^g to 6607, 12, 4. wch is the usual mercantile Commiss^n the public is charged with an additional 1 p^r C^t to Peltier de Doyer, who in fact it seems did the business tho' M^r W—s was on the Spot. From whatever cause Mr Williams's incapacity to do the business arose, for wch the public is to pay the above commiss^n it is immaterial. He who did it, is to be paid, & no more than what is usual can be permitted to be charged.

In the same manner on the Cannon shipped in the Independence there is 2 p^r C^t Commiss^n charged by Mr Williams & 1 p^r C^t by Mr Peltier, 46.. 01 & 93.. 14 — & the same on Anchors imported from St Sebastian 207.. 4-4 & 414.. 10. This therefore manifest that the public is charged in the Acc^t with 3 p^r C^t instead of two, & yet Mr Williams in his Memorandum says — "Mr J. Williams made an agreem^t with Mr Peltier to divide this Commission between them it really cost but 1 p^r C^t."

That there is not only a separate Acc^t of Charges on Goods received for shipping, the ~~whole amount~~ of wch wth the Commiss^n (20861, 3) is carried to the general

Debit; but there is also in the genl. Debit 1145,16,9 charged for carriage of cloathing, wh. must be included in the charges on cloathing on the former Acct. & is therefore a double charge.

That with regard to the separate Acct. there is not only the detail of Articles & charges, but there is added — To charges on sundry Goods — 2532,13
To charges on Sundry Goods — [illegible]85
To charges on sundry Charges — 171,12
To charges on Sundry Goods — [illegible]13,18
To charges on Sundry Goods — 94,5
To charges on Sundry Goods — 222,14
To Do. on Do. — 542 —
To Do. on Do. — 5662,3
873,2

To this is added a strange allowance ~~Allowance~~ for in—Peltier of —

On these accumulated with the detail charges is a Commission of 2 pr. Ct. Then comes a Supplement ~~to a~~ Commission upon it. All these are either double or inexplicable Charges.

That there is a Commission of 2 pr. Ct. charged on Cloaths ~~sums~~ remaind. to be shipped — 2438 —
which I believe is a new kind of charge.

That as the disbursements on the Ranger are improperly charged to the Commissioners, that business belonging to others, & they having not given any orders for it; the charge of 3738.th 13.3. for 5 pr. Ct. Comn. to the not allowable, must be regulated by the Comnd. Agent.

That the Sums charg'd as lent to prisoners for which not a single receipt is given in, are enormous. These prisoners had been before provided for by the public & their expences paid to Nantes when it was expected they would not only cease to be any farther burthen to the public, but relieve us from the necessity of making enormous advances to french Sailors. Instead of this we find the charge of 5904.tt for a few persons being more than they cost at & from Dunkirk to Nantes & fully sufficient to have maintaind them there for half a year. It is this lavishing the public money in a thousand ways which has made the expenditure so great & the Supplies so small.

That he has shewn no order from the Commissioners, nor had he any, for lending 20,000.tt to Mr. Ross. which he therefore can have no right to charge to the public.

That 720.tt 11, are by his own confession charg'd double.

That his remitting a Bill upon Mr. Chaumont of 50,000.tt to Dr. Franklin, which the latter has endorsd to the former, has no concern with the Commissioners, to whom that transaction has never been communicated. Money was remitted from the public funds in Paris to Mr. Williams at Nantes, at a considerable loss in discount, to purchase Supplies

for which there was the most urgent demand. In-
stead of applying it to that purpose he remits back
50,000lt to Dr. Franklin which is secretly negociated by
Mr. Chaumont, never brought to public Account
nor made known to the other Commissioners till
an enquiry into this Article compelld it. At the same
moment Mr. Williams was continually drawing
more money from the public Banker at Paris to
Nantes, as appears by the Bankers acct. Mr. Williams pretends this was to pay an
account of Mr. Chaumont agt. the Commissioners.
But what he had to do with any such Account, which
has never been sent to the Commissioners, or who or-
dered him to pay an Account at Paris, what sense there was in doing this by drawing
the money to Nantes & then remitting it to Paris, he
has not told us. So secret, so circuitous, so absurd a trans-
action is too suspicious to be allowd. For if such
modes of accounting for the expenditure of the pub-
lic money are permitted, there will be an end to all
possibility of settling Accounts or saving the public
from continual impositions.

That in fine, tho' it is near 5 months since
the vessels sail'd, Mr. Williams has not given in a
single Voucher or receipt to support the Accounts,
which he has at last laid before us; & which depend
entirely on his own vouching.

For these reasons I am of opinion — that his
Accounts are erroneous, & ought not to be passd.

July 15th. 1778. A. Lee 7

3

(No 205) (Acct. No. 7)

No. 3. 1. In the Recapitulation, Duc de Choiseul 211,200
which ought to be only 209,600
Error 1,200 against the Public

2d. The Copper is estimated at 270 Livres the Quintal which by M. Montieu's Acct. cost only 27 sols per pound or 150:14 the quintal which makes in

the Deane	90,000	instead of	162,000
3d In the Duchesse de Grammont	120,000	instead of	216,000
	210,000		378,000
			210,000
Over charged in the Estimate on the Art. of Copper			£168000
Added to the Error in the Duc de Choiseul			1600
makes in the whole			£169600

The Commission on this Sum at 5 PCt. is 8700 too much, wanting a few Sols.

A. Lee

Report by A. Lee one of the Commrs. on J. Williams Accts.

(15 July 1778.)

8

(Duplicate of No 205)

Report upon the Accounts delivered in to the Commissi:oners by Mr Jonathan Williams — July 15th 1778

That there are 161655 tt 4 2 Sols charged improperly to the Account of the Commissioners being expended in business for which he had no orders & which was totally foreign to his Duty as Agent to the Commissioners.

That this creates a Ballance at the End of May against Mr Williams of 159094 tt 5 s due from him to the public.

That Mr Williams having always had an advance from the public either in the actual Bal:lance, or in Credit given & accepted by Mr Grand the public Banker; There ought to have been an allow:ance of 6 pc to the public on the expenditure of the money (except in some articles where prompt pay:ment without the discount is customary) which upon so large a Sum as 1,128011 tt is considerable.

That though it appears from Mr Deane's Letter in April 1777 that a plan for sending Despatches

1

in the cheapest manner was transmitted to Mr. Williams, yet from the latter end of Novr. 1777 to March 1778 there are these enormous sums charged – for Expresses 842.lt 8.s for postage of Letters 1858.lt 11.s To shew the extravagance of this it may be observed that the whole expence of the Commission in Dispatches, postage, &c in our Bankers Accounts, from Feby. 1777 to March 1778, being treble the time is only 1803.lt 10.s

That tho Mr. Williams says the 3600.lt charged to the public on Account of Mercier, which the public has already paid, is on Both sides of the acct., in fact it appears on the Debtor side only.

That when Mr. Williams undertook to supply the Independence, he was so far from doing his Duty, that he was interfering with the business of others. He knew that Vessel was addressed to the Commercial Agents. He knew Mr. William Lee, the surviving Agent was at Paris, & that Mr. Schweighauser who acted

2 for

for him was at Nantes. The Commissioners Agent had not any right to interfere with the Commercial Agent, & Mr Williams well knew what injury & disturbance such interference on his part had created. He has not shewn any order from the Commissioners to supply the Independence, nor the Ranger, in both which he has therefore acted without authority, has been doing the business of the Commercial Agent & not of the Commissioners, & must therefore account with him & not with them. The Commercial Agent never asked nor received the advantage of disbursing of one Sol of the public Money in the hands of the Commissioners. He never interfered in that with Mr Williams. It was therefore undue & unpardonable in Mr Williams to interfere with him, & the Commissioners will hardly give their approbation to such Conduct.

That in the account of the outfit &c of the Dean after every article of charge & expence is made in the detail

Dr. Lee's reasons for not passing T. Williams's accounts

there is a lumping article of Charges by Jon.a Williams 29719, 9, 5, & upon this a Commission of 2 p.C. is charged all which I take to be erroneous. Besides Mr. Williams's charge of 1 p.C. Commission amounting to 6607, 12, 4, which is the usual mercantile commission, the public is charged with an additional 1 p.C. to Peltier du Doyer, who in fact it seems did the business tho' Mr. Williams was on the spot. From whatever cause Mr. Williams's incapacity ~~arose~~ to do the business arose; for which the public is to pay the above commission is immaterial. He who did it, is to be paid, & no more than what is usual can be permitted to be charged.

In the same manner on the Canon shipp'd in the Independence there is 2 p.C. commission charged ~~90.ll 14~~ by Mr. Williams & 1 p.C. by Mr. Peltier 46.ll 17 & 93.ll 14 — & the same on anchors imported from St. Sebastian 207.ll 4s. 4d. & 414.ll 10. It is therefore manifest that the public is charged in the acct. with 3 p.C. instead of two, & yet Mr. Williams in his memorandum says. "as J. Williams made an agreement with Mr. Peltier to

4

divide their Commission between them it really cost but 1 p Cent"

That there is not only a seperate acct. of charges on Goods ~~shipt~~ received for Shipping, the whole amount of which with the Commission (20861,3) is carried to the general Debet, but there is also in the general Debet 1145,16,4 charged for carriage of cloathing which must be included in the Charges on cloathing in the former acct. & is therefore a double charge.

That with regard to the seperate acct. there is not only the detail of Articles & charges but there is added

To charges on sundry goods	2532, 13
To charges on sundry goods	85
To charges on sundry charges	171, 12
To charges on sundry goods	13, 18
To charges on sundry goods	94" 5.
To Do on Do	222, 14
To Do on Do	542,"

To this is added a strange allowance to Mr. Peltier of | 873, 2.

On these accumulated with the detail charges is a commission of 2 p^r C^t. Then comes a supplement & a Commission upon it. All these are either double or inexplicable charges.

That there is a Commission of 2 p^r C^t. charged on Cloaths & arms remaining to be Shipt - - 2438 — which I believe is a new kind of charge.

That as the disbursements on the Ranger are improperly charged to the Commissioners, that business belonging to others, & they having not given any orders for it; the charge of 3738. 13. 3^d for 5 p^r C^t Commission tho not allowable, must be regulated by the Commercial Agent.

That the sums charged as lent to prisoners for which not a single receipt is given us, are enormous. These prisoners had been before provided for by the public & their expences paid to Nantes where it was expected they would not only cease to be any farther burthen to the public, but relieve us from the necessity of making enormous advances to French

6

Sailors. Instead of these we find the charge of 5914.tt
for a few persons being more than they cost at & from
Dunkirk to Nantes & fully sufficient to have main-
tained them half a year. It is thus lavishing the
public money in a thousand ways which has made
the expenditures so great & the supplies so small.

That he has shewed no order from the
Commissioners, nor had he any, for lending 20,000 to Mr.
Ross which he therefore can have no right to charge
to the public.

That 720.tt 11. are by his own confession charged dou-
ble. That his remitting a Bill upon Mr Chaumont of
50,000.tt to Dr Franklin, which the latter has endorsed
to the former, has no concern with the Commissioners
to whom that transaction has never been commu-
nicated. Money was remitted from the public funds
in Paris to Mr Williams at Nantes, at a considerable
loss in discount, to purchase supplies for which there
was the most urgent demand. Instead of applying it
to that purpose he remits back 50,000.tt to Dr Franklin

3 7

Duplicate of (No 205)
Report of A. Lee on J. Williams Accts

which is secretly negociated to Mr Chaumont & never brought to public account nor made known to the other Commissioners till an enquiry into this article compell'd it. At the same moment Mr Williams was continually drawing more money from the public Banker at Paris to Nantes as appears by the Banker's acct. Mr Williams pretends this was to pay an acct of Mr Chaumonts against the Commissioners. But what he had to do with any such acct which has never been sent to the Commissioners or who ordered him to pay an Acct at Paris, what sense there was in doing that by drawing the money to Nantes & then remitting it to Paris he has not told us. So secret, so circuitous, so absurd a transaction is too suspicious to be allowed. For if such modes of accounting for the expenditure of the public money are permitted, there will be an end to all possibility of settling accounts or saving the public from continual impositions.

That in fine, tho' it is near 5 months since the Vessels sailed Mr Williams has not given in a single voucher or receipt to support the accts which he has at last laid before us & which depend intirely on his own vouching.

8 For these reasons I am of opinion – that his accts are erroneous & ought not to be passed.

(Signed) Arthur Lee A Lee

No 17 No 0132

A. Lee's reasons agst Williams accts

N° 6 (N° 204) Paris 13 July 1778

Sir

on looking over the papers you gave me, I find that Mr. Jos.h Wharton, has written to Doct.r Bancroft, that he had Received Letters, & had been Shewn papers, of very great importance, from Mr Thornton; a Mong the Rest, he Sends Doct.r Bancroft the following account of what passed between him & Thornton, in those words: —

Mr Thornton afterwards Read, what he ca=lled a memorial from the commissioners to the Courts of F & S, or one of them, Setting forth a Mong other things, the advantages to accrue to those powers on a close connection, with: a=merica as Independant States, & the conseque=nt, Annihilation of the British wealth & strength on a Joint war with the U.S. & emphatically declaring Now was the period, which god had put into their hands, to clip the wings of

their antient & ambitious enemy, & pinion her to the earth for ever.

I do very well Remember, that some time in decem[r] last, Mr. Joseph Wharton, did shew me, with Mr Will=ium Blake of Jamaica, a Copy, of what he call'd, a memorial, which he said was written by Doc[r] Franklin to the court of France, & which he informed us, had Just got the lend of from his Brother Sam[l] Wharton, who had Received it, from Doct[r] Bancroft & that Mr Sam[l] Wharton had been desired by Bancroft to keep the contents a profo=und Secret; part of the contents of which was, to the best of my Recolection & belief, the very words which Jos[h] Wharton writes Doc[r] Ban=croft, he had been shewn by Thornton in Feb[ry] last –

I also know that Mr Thornton was at the house, that Jos. Wharton & my Self Lived in, [in London] & by Whartons Invitation, several

days, which was, as well as I Recollect in Janu-
-ary Last,

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Most Obt. Ht Ser^t

M Livingston

The

Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

~~No 185~~

(No 204) Mr. Livingston
to
Arthur Lee
(15 July 1778.)

1778
Livingston
about
Bancroft, Wharton
&c

Arthur Lee Esq
Chaillot

~~No. 185~~

A Son Excellence,

Monsieur Arthur Lee,

Ministre Plenipotentiaire des Etats unis de l'amerique.

Nous avons l'honneur de vous confirmer notre lettre du dernier Courier.

La troisieme prise faite par le Capitaine Cucker venant d'entrer dans notre Rade. il à l'honneur de vous en faire part par la lettre cy jointe. Cette prise Consiste en morüe sèche, que suivant toute apparence vaudra de l'argent pour le moment, et nous ferons certainement l'impossible d'en obtenir un grand prix.

Un Batteleur arrivé hier icy, a rapporté que l'on à amené dans la rade de Brest, un

Vaisseau anglois de 72 Canons. Dieu
veuille que ce premier Succes soit suivi
beaucoup d'autres.

Nous sommes avec le plus
profond Respect

de Votre Excellence

Les très humbles &
obeissants Servit

L'orient le 15 Juillet 1778.

Puchelberg &

(1) (1) 24

Copy of a letter from His Excellency The Baron de Breteuil Ambassador Extraordinary from His Majesty the King of France to their Royal & Imperial Majesties at Vienna.

Vienne Le 16 Juillet 1778.

"Monsieur

No. 1778

J'ai reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'ecrire le 8 de ce mois, j'ai été charmé d'apprendre votre arrivée a Ratisbonne.

Je regarde comme vous, l'attaque faite a la Belle Poule par la fregate angloise comme une declaration de guerre de fait, et je suppose que bientot elle sera revetue de toutes les formes. La conduite de la Belle Poule m'a procuré un grand plaisir, vous m'en donné un nouveau en m'aprenant que la fregate americaine qu'on avoit dit prise est arrivée à Boston avec toutes les munitions. Je me suis trouvé bien heureux Monsieur d'avoir pû vous donner ici des preuves de tout mon empressement, c'est un devoir de ma place que j'ai remplis avec une satisfaction particulier en que la connoissance de votre personel a fort augmenté, ainsi que la conduite sage et mesurée sur tous les points pendant votre difficile sejour ici; je ne puis m'empecher de vous temoigner encore la peine que j'ai ressentis des

(2) *The Baron de Breteuil to Wm. Lee Esqr*
Vienne 16 July 1778.

des obstacles insurmountables que j'ai rencontré dans le desir que j'avois de contribuer a vous procurer a cette Cour tous les agrémens que vous aviez droit d'y attendre. Je dois aussi vous renouveller mon admiration, Monsieur, sur la tranquilité et la noblesse avec laquelle vous vous etes soumis a cette circonstance, du moment que vous avez porté vos regards sur la gloire, et le succes qu'assure le courage de vos compatriotes a leur justes et respectable enterprises.

J'en attends comme vous la suite avec grande confiance, et j'en partagerai de meme tous les avantages. J'aurai une grande joie quand ils vous rameneront a cette Cour sous toutes les formes qui pouvent vous être agréables. J'ai l'honneur d'etre avec la consideration la plus distinguée

Monsieur
Votre tres humble
et tres obeissant serviteur
Le Baron de Breteuil"

A Monsieur
Monsieur Guillaume Lee
Ecuyer.

Vienna 16 July 1778

Sir,

I have received the letter which you did me the honor to address to me on the 8th of this month. I have been delighted to learn from it your arrival at Ratisbonne.

I regard, like yourself, the attack made upon the "Belle Poule" by the English Frigate, as a declaration of War in fact, and suppose that it will soon be invested with all the usual forms. The conduct of the Belle Poule has afforded me great pleasure, and you have given me the additional pleasure, by informing me that the American Frigate which had been said to be captured, has arrived at Boston with all her munitions. It has afforded me much happiness, Sir, to have been enabled to afford you here proofs of my earnest attention, it is a duty of my position, which I have discharged with particular satisfaction which the knowledge of your personal qualities has very much augmented as well as your wise and cautious conduct on all points during your difficult sojourn here. I cannot restrain myself moreover from testifying to you the pain which I have felt on account of the insurmountable obstacles which I have encountered in the desire which I felt of contributing to procure

The Baron de Breteuil to Wm Lee.
Vienna. 16th July 1778.

for you at this Court, all the agreeable satisfaction which you had a right to expect there. I must also renew to you my admiration, Sir, of the tranquility and the nobleness with which you have submitted to that circumstance, from the moment that you have cast your attention to the glory and to the success assured by the courage of your compatriots to their just and respectable enterprises.

I look forward to the future, like yourself, with great confidence, and shall participate in like manner in all its advantages.

I shall feel great joy, when they shall bring you back to this Court, under all the forms, which can be agreeable to you. I have the honor to be with the most distinguished consideration

Sir,

Your very humble &
very obedient Servant
Le Baron de Breteuil

To Monsieur
Monsieur William Lee }
Ecuyer

Louis par la Grace de Dieu Roi de France et de Navarre, A tous ceux qui ces Presentes verront Salut. Comme notre cher et bien amé le Sieur Conrad Alexandre Gerard Sindic Royal de la Ville de Strasbourg et Secretaire de notre Conseil d'Etat, auroit en vertu des pleins Pouvoirs que nous lui avions donnés a cet effet conclu, Arreté et Signé le Six Fevrier de la presente Année Mil Sept Cent Soixante et dixhuit avec les Sieurs Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane et Arthur Lee Deputés du Congres General des Etats unis de l'Amerique Septentrionale pareillement munis de pleins Pouvoirs en bonne forme, un Traité d'Amitié et de Commerce dont la teneur s'ensuit

(Ici est le Traité)

Nous ayant agreable le susdit Traité d'Amitié et de Commerce en tous et chacun les Points et Articles qui y sont contenus et declarés, avons iceux, tant pour nous que pour nos Heritiers, Successeurs, Royaumes, Pays, Terres, Seigneuries et Sujets, accepté, approuvé, ratifié et confirmé et par ces Presentes signées de notre Main, acceptons, approuvons, ratifions et confirmons et le tout promettons en foi et Parole de Roi, sous l'Obligation et Hypotheque de tous et un chacun nos Biens presents et a venir garder et observer inviolablement, sans jamais aller ni venir au

contraire directement ou indirectement en quelque sorte et maniere que ce soit. En témoin de quoi nous avons fait mettre notre Scel à ces Presentes. Donné à Versailles le seizieme jour de Juillet l'an de Grace Mil Sept cent soixante et dix huit et de notre Regne le cinquieme.

Louis

Par le Roi

Gravier de Vergennes

(Copie)

[illegible]

(No. 206)

Honble Gentlemen Passy 17 July 1778

I am highly sensible of the Confidence you honour me with by your Approbation of my Drafts on Mr Grand, and am ready to account for the Expenditure of them up to the 30th May. The Charges since my Departure from Nantes, to go to new Acco^t. —

As your Time is too constantly and too importantly employed to attend to the Details of commercial Concerns

Concerns, would it not be well to appoint some Gentleman in whom you have Confidence to compare the Bills and Receipts with the Charges in the Accounts, The general Approbation of them to depend afterwards on the Commissioners? —

I submit the Matter to your Judgement & have the Honour to be with great Respect

Honble Gentlemen

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

Jon^a Williams

The Honorable
The Ministers Plenipotentiary
of the United States

(No. 206) Jonan. Williams
to
Ministers Plen. U.S.

(17 July 1778.)

Hond Sir (No 240) Baltimore July 19th 1778

Mr Hudson has a Letter from me to the Honl Marine Committe, Respecting my Brother Joshua Barney 2d Lieut of the Ship Virginia & taken Prisoner in Her, he is now Prisoner onboard of a Prison Ship at New York, I understand that there is Expected to this Place a Number of Prisoners belonging to the Maremaid Frigate drove on shore to the Northward of this Capes by the French Fleet— Among which is one or two Lieuts and I Pray in behalf of my Brother that you will use Your Intrest to get him Exchanged for one of them, I make free to trouble you on Account of your having Some Small Acquaintance with him, when he Sailed in the Andrea Doria Isaiah Robinson Comr— Pray Sr donot fail, and I Refer you to my letter and his to the Honl Committe for the further Particulars

Your Compliance will for ever
Oblige Your Obt Humd Servt

Wm Barney

NB. Please let me no my Brothers fate by Return of Mr Hudson or Post.

To

Robert Morris Esqr.

Favd. of Mr. Hudson

Philadelphia

No. 23

Wm. Barney
July 19th 1778
(~~No 23.~~)
(No 220)

Dear Sir, [Circuit] Philadelphia July [illegible] 1778

The condition of our affairs is much changed since I had the pleasure of writing to you as by the favor of his most Christian Majesty we now are become Masters of the Sea on our own Coast at least. Ten days ago arrived in the Delaware a French Squadron commanded by Count D'Estaing consisting of 12 sail of the line and 4 frigates having 11000 Seamen & land Troops & 1000 Marines on board. There is one Ship of 90 guns, one of 80, 6 of 74, three of 64 & 4 frigates. Having missed the English here, they immediately pro=ceeded to N. York in quest of them and are now before that Harbour, the depth of water being unfortunately insufficient to admit such large Ships. The English, whose fleet is inferior, are well contented to remain within the Narrows, and suffer Monsr. the Count to intercept every Vessel coming to N. York - He has already taken 15 Sail. But the French Admiral being an officer of great activity and spirit, he seems not content with this small work, and therefore I believe he will go immediately to R. Island where he can easily destroy the Ships, and with the assistance of our force there, make prisoners of 2000 British Troops on that Island. With this Squadron came Le Sieur Gerard Minister Plenipotentiary from his most Christian Majesty - He is a sensible well bred Man, and perfectly well acquainted with the politics of Europe - From him I learn that the Court of France consider the Message of the King of England to his Parliament & their answer, upon the Count Noailles notification of our alliance, as a denunciation of War on the part of G. Britain, and that they mean to act accordingly, without an express declaration, leaving this last to England - We are busied now in settling the Ceremonials for the reception of foreign Ministers of every denomination - And I assure you it is a work of no small difficulty -

When this is finished, Monsr. Gerard will have his
audience in Congress - I suppose this week - Gen. Washing-
has crossed the N. River, and will cooperate with the
Admiral in Measures to be concerted against the Comm-
enemy - The B. Commissioners have sent us a second letter
very silly, and equally insolent - The preliminaries insisted
on by Congress (an acknowledgement of Independence &c or withdraw-
-ing of their fleets & armies) not having been either of them com-
-plied with, this letter is to receive no answer - We have
detected and fully exposed Govr. Johnstone, who under
the plausible guise of friendship & virtue, has endeavoured
to bribe Members of Congress - The whole body indeed
as well as individual Members - The Confederation is
ratified by 10 States, there remains only Jersey, Delaw-
& Maryland; but I suppose these obstinacy will not
long submit to their interest and a confessed coalition
to the place - I am, much hurried, tho with
great esteem, dear Sir your most obedient ser.

Richard Henry

A Copy of a ~~Sloop~~ vessels Register

Virginia, to wit

In pursuance of an act of the general assembly made in the 1st year of the common Wealth of virginia entitled an act for preventing frauds, & regulating abuses in trade.

Port — ~~John~~ James river virginia

Jurat — John Southcomb — that the Sloop Tartan of virginia whereof — is at present master being a virginia built vessel of the burden of Tuns was built in Glocester in virginia in the year of our Lord 1778 & that William Goodly & Co. (one half) John Taleb (one quarter) John Dixon 1/8 John Southcomb 1/16 & Thomas Archer 1/16, are at present the owners — thereof. Given under my hand & seal of Office at the aforesaid port, this 20th day of july 1778

Gen S L Lee – (No 242)

Dear Sir. Gunston-Hall July 21st. 1778.

(I am much obliged to You for the last Papers & [struck out] the agreable News they contain. American prospects brighten every Day; nothing, I think, but the speedy arrival of a strong British Squadron can save the Enemie's Fleet & Army at N. York; indeed as to their Fleet, I trust the Blow is already struck. We are apt to wish for Peace, I confess I am, altho' I am clearly of Opinion that War is the present Interest of these united States: the Union is yet in=compleat, & will be so, until the Inhabitants of all the Territory from Cape Breton to the Mississippi are included in it; while G. Britain possesses Canada & West Florida, she will continually be setting the Indians upon us, & while she holds the Harbours of Augustine & Hallifax, especially the latter, we shall not be able to protect our Trade or Coasts from

from her Depredations; at least for many Years to come: the Possession of these two Places would save us more than half a Million a Year, & we should then quickly have a Fleet sufficient for the common Protection of our own Coasts; for with=out some strong-Holds in America, or naval Magazines in our Neighbourhood, G. Britain cou'd seldom, or never keep a Squadron here. If she loses her Army now ~~here~~ in America, or is obliged to withdraw it, one of which I think must happen, this important Object will probably be obtained in the Course of another Campaign: if the British Ministry act consistently, & in Character, they will not recognize our Independence until this Business is compleated, & until our Prejudices against G. Britain are ~~[illegible]~~ more firmly rooted, & we become better reconciled to foreign Manners & Manufactures; it will require no great Length of time to accomplish this, & then the Wis=dom of British Counsels will seize the auspicious moment

Moment, & acknowledge our Independence

Lord Chatham's Death does not seem to be mentioned in the Papers with Certainty; but from the weak Condition in which he ap=peared in the House of Lords in April, the Account is more than probable.

One can't help being concern'd at the Death of a wise & a good man; yet it is certainly a favourable Event to America; there was nothing I dreaded so much as his taking the Helm, & nothing I more heartily wish than the Continuance of the present Ministry. — After, his most Christian Majesty, & Happiness & prosperity to the French Nation, my next Toast shall be, long Life & Continuance in Office to the present British Ministry, in the first Bottle of good Claret I get, & I expect some by the first Ships from France.

If Tickets in the second Class of the Lottery are put into the Hands of the Sellers in the former

I can very conveniently furnish myself here: I presume the Sellers must be furnished with Lists of the 20 Dollr. prizes in the first Class, to enable them to make the proper Discounts to the purchasers in the second.—

Your Tobo. is sold at 60/, the highest Price which has been given here; the Mony shall be transmitted, by the first safe Hand, to Mrs. Lee of Belleview, as You desired.—

A very worthy Friend of mine in this County, Capt. Harper, had a partial & unjust Judgement (as he thinks) lately given by a Court of Admiralty in N. Carolina, agst. a Vessel of his (taken by Goodrich in Curratuck Inlet, & recovered by his own Captain's Hands for Salvage, in favour of some Militia Companys; & what was worse, instead of unlading the Vessel, or securing her in a place of Safety, after they had taken her out of the Possession of Harper's Captain, they only took out some Hhds. of Molosses & Sacks of Salt, & suffered her to remain in the same Spot, with the greatest

part

(5.)

Part of her Cargoe on Board, until Goodrich returned from N. York (whither He had carried some other Prizes) & cut the Vessel out from her Moorings; so that Capt. Harper sustains a Loss of the Vessel & the whole Cargoe, to the amount of several thousand Pounds, & is totally at a Loss how to proceed; not knowing what mode Congress have prescribed for Redress, in such Cases. You will oblige me exceedingly in informing me whether any Court of Vice-Admiralty is established for the Trial of Ap=peals from the Courts of Admiralty in the different States, & where it sits, if there is yet no such Court whether Congress, in the mean time, takes Cognisance of such Matters; in short what will be the proper Steps for Capt. Harper to take to come at Justice.

I beg my Compts. to Your Colleagues, particularly to Your Brother Colo. F. Lee, & my Friend Mr. Thos. Adams; & am, Dr. Sir, Yr. sincerely affecte. Friend & Servt.

Richd. Henry Lee Esqr.

G Mason

(No 24) July 2d 1778

My dear Sir

I received your Letters by Mr Armistead & the Post, tho' it was long before they came to hand, for them & your last favor of the 13th I now thank you.

I am much pleased to see our great Ally acting with so much Vigor against Great Britain, & heartily wish the Count D'Estaing would be expeditious in attacking the Enemy's Fleet at N. York, otherwise I fear Admiral Keppel will too soon be in the Way to prevent him from doing them much Damage. The destruction of the Fleet under Lord Howe would give the French as great an Advantage over England as she obtained last War over France by seizing her Merchantmen before the Declaration of War. [Lord Chatham's Death has happened very favourably for us. I have long been afraid of him; for added to his great Abilities he so entirely possessed the Confidence of the Nation he could have brought them to undertake any thing. Besides his System of Politics was by no means fitted for N. America. The account you give of Captn Jones, of the Ranger, is very agreeable, it will put our Enemy to a little more Expence to guard their Coast. I wish some of our enterprising Geniuses would visit the Coast of North Britain, we should see how those Gentry, who are so fond of going abroad to fight, would relish it at Home.] Our Affairs

seem to be drawn to a Point, something important must have happened ere this; the Anxiety for what the Event may be gives me Pain, for tho' our Prospect is now bright, it may soon become clouded; where we have much to love we have much to fear. In this Suspence I may probably remain 'til you free me from it by an Account of the glorious Issue.

I am, dear Sir, Your's most affectionately
Mann Page Junr.

Mann's field
July 21st 1778

(No 241.) Mann Page Jr
July 21st '78

No. 374

Richard Henry Lee Esquire
in Congress
Philadelphia

M. Page

Sansebastian 22 July 1778

Sir

I wrote you last from Bordeaux & Inclosd you an Extract of the Sentence against Capt Allen which my Lawyer here Informs me is against all Rules of Law —— as the Laws of Spain allow a Certain Term for Rectifying the declaration of the Captn within the Term Capt Allen prayd liberty to Rectify his which was granted & he accordingly declared his Vessell a Prize all which will appear in the Procedure, therefore as they have Adjudgd Capt Woods Claim to be Vexatious & Unjust there can be No doubt of the Legality of the Capture consequently I think we have Reason to expect that our Prize will be Rendred us, I shall forward you the Sentence at large with the Lawyers Observations on it as soon as a Copy can be Attaind

I have Complyd with the sentence so farr as to

give Security for the money Supply'd the People in order
to procure their Inlargement and shall sett of with
them Tomorrow for Bilbao where I shall dispatch them
in a Small schooner I have there for America as soon
as she can be got in Order —

am Sir with the greatest
Esteem & Respect
Your Most Ob.t Ser
J. Emery

Honb.e Arthur Lee Esq.

(Copy) Passy, July 22d. 1778

Sir,

I received your favor of May 15th. and was glad to find that mine of Decr. 21. had come to hand — Mr Deane's brother writes that it was not signed, which was an accidental omission — Mr Deane himself is I hope with you long before this time, and I doubt not but every prejudice against him is removed — It was not alone upon the proceedings of Congress I formed my opinion + that such prejudices existed — I am glad to understand that opinion was groundless, and that he is like to come back with honour in the commission to Holland, where Matters are already so ripe for his operations, that he cannot fail (with his abilities) of being useful — You mention former Letters of the Committee by which we might have seen the apprehensions of the resentment of foreign Officers &c — those Letters never came to hand, and we on our part are amazed to hear, that the Committee had had no line from us for near a

year

year, during which we had written I believe five or six long & particular Letters, and had made it a rule to send triplicates of each, and to replace those that we happened to hear were lost, so that of some there were five copies sent & as I hear that Captn Young is arrived who had some of them, I think it is probable that one at least of each must have come to your hands before this time — Mr Deane's informations however may supply the want of them whose arrival as he went with a strong squadron of men of War is more likely than that of this Vessel or any single one by whom we might send more copies — The affair with Mr Beaumarchais will be best settled by his assistance after his return. We find it recommended to us, but we know too little of it to be able to do it well without him.

There has been some inaccuracy in sending us the last dispatches of the Committee, copies of the contract with Mr Francy and the invoices came by the same Vessel, Capt Niles, and tho' one of your Letters mentions sending enclosed the resolution of Congress relative to two Articles of the Treaty, that resolution has not come to

hand

hand — There are circumstances in the affair of those Articles that make them, in my opinion, of no consequence if they stand, while proposing to abrogate them has an unpleasing appearance, & as it looks like a desire of having it in our power to make that commercial kind of war which no honest State can begin, which no good friend or neighbour ever did or will begin, which has always been considered as an Act of hostility that provoked as well as justified reprisals, and has generally produced such as have rendered the first project as unprofitable ~~as~~ ~~unprofitable~~ as it was unjust — Commerce among Nations as well as between private persons should be fair and equitable, by equivalent exchanges and mutual supplies. — The taking unfair advantage of a neighbour's necessities tho' attended with a temporary success always breeds ill blood; to lay duties on the commodities exported which our friends want is a knavish attempt to get something for nothing — The Statesman who first invented it had the genius of a pick-pocket, and would have been a pick pocket if fortune had suitably placed him — The Nations who have practised it have suffered for it fourfold, as pick-pockets ought to suffer — Savoy by a duty on exported Wines lost the supplying of Switzerland, which

thenceforth

thenceforth raised its own wine, and (to wave other instances) Britain by a duty on exported Tea, has lost the trade of her colonies. — But as we produce no commodity that is peculiar to our country, and which may not be obtained elsewhere, the discouraging the consumption of ours by duti on exportation and thereby encouraging a rivalship from other nations in the ports we trade to is absolute folly, whic is indeed mixed more or less with all knavery — For my own part, if my protest were of any consequence, I shou protest against our doing it, even by way of reprizal it is a meanness with which I would not dirty the ~~[illegible]~~ conscien or character of my country — The objections stated against the last of the two Articles had all been made and considered here and were sent, I imagine from hence by one who is offended that they were not thought of weight sufficient to stop the signing of the Treaty till the King should in another Council reconsider those Articles, and after agreeing to omit them, order new Copies to be drawn tho' all was then ready engrossed on parchment as before settled — I did ~~not think~~ the Articles of much consequence, but I thought it of consequence that no delay should be given to the signing

of

of the Treaty after it was ready; but if I had known that those Objections would have been sent to the Committee I should have sent the answers they received, which had been satisfactory to all the Commissioners when the Treaty was settled, and untill the mind of one of them was altered by the opinion of two other persons — It is now too late to send those answers — but I wish for the future, if such a case should again happen, that Congress would acquaint their Commissioners with such partial objections and hear their reasons before they determine that they have done wrong. In the time, this is only to you in private, it will be of no use to communicate it, as the resolution of Congress will probably be received & executed before this Letter comes to hand.

Speaking of Commissioners, in the plural puts me in mind of enquiring if it can be the intention of Congress to keep three Ambassadors at this Court, We have indeed four, with the gentleman intended for Tuscany, who continues here, and is very angry that he was not consulted in making the Treaty, which he could have mended in several particulars, and perhaps he is angry with some reason, if the instructions to him do, as he

says

says they do, require us to consult him. — We shall soon have a fifth, for the Envoy to Vienna not being received there is, I hear, returned hither — The necessary expence of maintaining us all, is, I assure you, enormously great — I wish the utility may equal it — I imagine every one of us spends nearly as much as Lord Stormont did, it is true he left behind him the character of a niggard, & when the advertisement appeared for the sale of his houshold goods, all Paris laughed at an Article of it, perhaps very innocently expressed "Une grande quantité de linge de Table, qui n'a jamais "servi" — "Cela est très vraisemblable", says they, "car il n'a jamais donné à manger" — But as to our number, whatever advantage there might be in the joint counsels of three for framing and adjusting the Articles of the treaty, there can be none in managing the common business of a Resident here, on the contrary, all the advantages in negociation that result from secrecy of sentiment and uniformity in expressing it, and in common

business

business from dispatch are lost — In a Court too, where every word is watched & weighed, if a number of Commissioners do not every one hold the same language in giving their opinion of any public transactions this lessens their weight, and where it may be prudent to put on or avoid certain appearances of concern, for example, or indifference, satisfaction or dislike, where the utmost sincerity and candour should be used, and would gain credit, if no semblance of art shewed itself in the inadvertent discourse, perhaps of only one of them; the hazard is in proportion to the number, and where every one must be consulted, on every particular of common business, in answering every Letter &c — and one of them is offended, if the smallest thing is done without his consent — The difficulty of being often and long enough together, the different opinions, the time consumed in debating them, the interruption by new Applicants in the time of meeting &c &c occasion so much postponing and delaying, that correspondence languishes occasions are lost, and the business is always behind hand

I have mentioned the difficulty of being

often

often and long enough together, this is considerable where they cannot be all accommodated in the same house, but to find three people whose tempers are so good and who like so well one another's company and manner of living & conversing as to agree well themselves, tho' being in one house, & whose servants will not by their indiscretion quarrel with one another, & by artful misrepresentations draw their masters in to take their parts, to the disturbance of necessary harmony, these are difficulties still greater, and almost insurmountable, and in consideration of the whole, I wish the Congress would separate us. The Spanish galleons which have been impatiently expected, are at length happily arrived — The fleet and army returning from Brazil is still out, but supposed to be on the way homewards, when that and the South sea ships are arrived, it will appear whether Spain's accession to the Treaty has been delayed for the reasons given, or whether

the

reasons were only given to excuse the delay. 5

The English and French Fleets of nearly equal force are now both at sea — It is not doubted but if they meet there will be a battle — For tho' England thro' fear affect to understand it to be still peace, and would excuse the depredation she has made on the commerce of France, by pretences of illicit trade &c, yet France considers the War as begun from the time of the King's message to Parliament, complaining of the insult France had given by treating with us, and demanding aids to resent it; and the answers of both houses, offering their lives & fortunes, and the taking several frigates are deemed indisputable hostilities, accordingly orders are given to all the fleets and armed ships to return hostilities, and incouragement is offered to privateers &c; an Ambassador Spain is indeed gone to London, and joyfully received there in the idea that peace may be made by his mediation — But as yet we learn nothing certain of his mission, and doubt his effecting any thing of the kind.

War in Germany seems to be inevitable,

and

this occasioning great borrowings of money in Holland and elsewhere by the powers concerned, makes it more difficult for us to succeed in ours — When we engaged to Congress to pay their bills for the interest of the sums they should borrow, we did not dream of their drawing on us for other occasions, we have already paid off Congress drafts to returned Officers, 82,211 Livres, and we know not how much more of that kind we have to pay, because the Committee have never let us know the amount of those drafts, or their account of them never reached us, and they still continue coming in, and we are now surprized with advice of drafts from Mr Bingham to the amount of 100,000[lt] more — If you reduce us to Bankruptcy here, by a non payment of your drafts, consider the consequences, in my humble opinion, no drafts should be made on us without first learning from us that we shall be able to answer them

Mr Beaumarchais has been out of

Town

6

Town ever since the arrival of your power to settle with him, I hope he will be able to furnish the supplies mentioned in the envoice & contract - the settlement may be much better made ~~by~~ with the assistance of Mr Deane, we being not privy to the transactions

We have agreed to give Monsr. Dumas 200 Louis a year, thinking that he well deserves it

With great esteem, I have the honor to be Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant

signed, B. Franklin

Honble
James Lovell, Esqr.

22 July 78

N°. 5

A Monsieur
Monsieur le Rey de Chaumont
a
Passi

a ~~[illegible]~~

Des affaires de la derniere importance Monsieur m'ont empêché de repondre de Suite a la lettre, du treize du Courant, que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire.

La dénonciation que vous dites avoir adressée à Mr ~~Jackson~~ Franklin, interresse le Public, pour lequel je suis également emploié, et frape sur la Députation de mon frere; c'est pourquoi ce n'est pas sans raison que je l'ai relevée.

Vous assurez que si le Gendre de ce Député est ~~d'Antigua~~ de Guernesey, et qu'il y ait des Parens, cela seul suffit, sans autres preuves ulterieures pour établir l'accusation que vous avez intentée contre lui dans ~~votre~~ cette lettre anonyme: "Qu'il était un espion, & qu'il faisait passer des informations à l'ennemi:" Que son Gendre Soit natif de ce même endroit, qu'il y ait des Parens, que tout cela ait toujours été aussi certainement connu que Sa résidence à ~~Michalon~~ Nantes; ces faits ne demandent aucunes preuves; Mais les conséquences ~~flétrissantes~~ que vous en tirez en exigent nécessairement: "Ce qui fait craindre avec raison que ce Gendre, qui n'a aucun attachement pour la Nation, ne Soit assez indiscret pour faire passer des avis à ses freres, des affaires importantes qui lui passent par les mains"..

Telle est la dénonciation qui nous a été faite par votre canal; Or il est de la derniere importance pour le Public,

ainsi que pour les Particuliers que son Auteur se fasse connaitre, et produise ses preuves.

Vous savez, peutêtre, Monsieur, que M. ~~Lung~~ Neker est Etranger, Et qu'il a un Parent à Londres très déterminément et très intimement attaché au Gouvernement Britannique; mais déduiriez vous de ces raisons ~~qu'il~~ que Mons.r Neker est l'Espion de son Parent et de l'Angleterre?

La personne respectable à qui vous dites avoir adressé votre dénonciation anonime aurait pû vous dire d'après son expérience personnelle, qu'il est très possible qu'un homme soit dans la confiance de la plus entiere et la plus décidée d'un parti, au même tems que ses plus proches parens sont du parti contraire, sans mériter pour cela le plus leger soupçon de trahison.

je ne fais ces observations que dans l'intention de vous faire appercevoir, que vous avez été un peu précipité, lorsque vous avez assurés, dans des termes peu convenables au Sujet, que: "Si Le gendre de la maison est ~~d'Antigua~~ de ~~Nantes~~ Guernesey & qu'il y ait des Parens, par S.t Patrice la notte est vraïe":

D'après L'idée que nous avons de la justice, nous ne pourons condamner sur des dénonciations secrettes, et

Comme cette affaire ne peut en rester au point où elle se trouve, je demande, Monsieur, que vous déclariez l'auteur et que vous produisiez les preuves de l'accusation énoncée dans la lettre dont il est question. Lorsque j'en serai muni, je m'adresserai au Ministre pour qu'il me seconde dans l'examen scrupuleux de cette affaire, et il en resultera ou la condamnation ou la décharge de l'accusé.

j'ai l'honneur d'être &c

à Chaillot ce 22e. de Juillet 1778

Nantz 22 July 1778

(No 243)

Sir

I am favoured with your most welcomed favor of the 10 May last in answer to which I shall only repeat to you that I beg you would be assured that I will always look upon your Son as my own & act accordingly his good Caracter persuades me that my Councils will answer both yours & my expectations and that one day he will give you that Satisfaction which makes the true happiness of a Father —

Since my last your worthy Brother Wm Lee Esqr having been named to an embassy to Vienna appointed me American Comercial agent in his stead would not it be proper that this

S. y acts

The Honourable R H Lee Esqr. M of C.

should be confirmed by Congress or by the honourable secret Comittee if so you would oblige me much to get this Comission proper-ly drawn out & be persuaded that I shall always thankfully acknowledge this favor—

Actually that our Court's treaty is signed and ratified by Congress I doubt not but our trade will be carried on with more regularity if so the Vessells I have from time to time recomended & addressed to you & Mr Thomas Jett will henceforward be more lucky than they have been— the Fly you mention was lost near Edington & what was saved remains in the hands of Messrs Hewes Smith & Allen

— Always intirely devoted to your comands I remain most sincerely

Sir

Your most humble & most Obedient Servant

J. Dl. Schweighauser

J. D. Schweighauser
letter 22d. July 1778

The Honourable

Richard H. Lee Esqr.

Member of Congress

at Congress

1778

J.D. Schweighauser

July 22d '78

(No 243).

23d July

1778 Rec

14 Aug: 78

Mons: Schweig-

hauser about my

son's affairs.

Sir, Passy July 23.d 1778

We have just received a message from Mons.r le Comte de Vergennes by his Secretary, acquaint.g us, that information is receiv'd from England of the intention of the Cabinet there to offer by addition.l instructions to their Commissioners Independence to the United States on condition of their making a separate ~~treaty~~ Peace, relying on the majority in both Houses for approbation of the measure. M.r de Vergennes upon this intelligence requests, that we would write expressly to acquaint the Congress, that tho' no formal Declaration of war has yet been published, the war between France, & England is consider'd as actually existing from the time of the return of the Ambassadors; & that if England sh.d propose a peace with France, the immediate

Answer to the proposition would be, our eventual treaty with the United States is now in full force, & we will make no peace but in concurrence with ~~with~~ them. the same answer it is expected will be given by the Congress if a separate peace should be proposed to them; And we have given it as our firm opinion that such an Answer will be given by you, without the least hesitation, or difficulty. tho you may not have been informed before, as you now are, that the war being actually begun, the eventual treaty is become fully & compleatly binding. We are with great respect

Sir, Yr. most obedient
& most Humble Servts.

Honble.
Henry Laurens
Esqr. Presidt. of Congress.

signed
B. Franklin
John Adams

Copy of a Letter to
the President of Congress
dated Passy 23d. July 1778
signed B. Franklin

John Adams.

24 July 78

Mr R. Lee is desired to sign ~~the~~ & return the enclosed if he approves it

Recd from a Commissionaire on my way from Challiot to Paris, between 6 & 7 OC in the Eveng; containing a paper of which the enclosed is an exact Copy. A Lee July 24th 1778.

Returnd unsigned at 8 OC next morng

Hon.ble Arthur Lee Esq.re

Madrid 23.d July 1778

Dear Sir

My last wrote to you under 25.th ult.o forwarding a remittance of Livres 20000. as p duplicate herein, & comfirming the same as well as my formers, have now to answer your esteem'd 25.th ult.o which came to hand but latterly, saying that it is well you rec.d mine of the 11.th d.o with the bill of 22500.cc & hope you have not omitted giving me the same advise of the others, for which I look every post. shoud it ocurr any other remittances, it woud be much better that you shoud draw, than to wait for bills, as it is equaly the same for what regards to this side, & you will by this method get the money ymmidiatly.

It is with pleasure I see what you tell me regarding your people on the other side of the watter, from whence I hope soon for some great news, so pray lett me know as soon as possible.

I am trying about what you desire me regarding the millon of Livres, probably it will be practicable by rising the Interest to some thing more, however I will be able to lett you know with more certainty in a little time, as some people has taken it into consideration, therefore refer you to my sequels.

I am sorry to tell you that no American vessells apear in Bilbao where goods are ready to ship & shoud be glad to Know whether you woud have them shipp'd in any foreign bottoms that may offer. Nothing more offers worth your notice so that wishing you all manner of prosperity have the honor to be with great esteem

Dear Sir

Your most obt. Hble servt.

Jams. Gardoque

N.B.
Observe you have also reced the remce of the 20000.cc

Copie de la lettre de M. le P.ce de Montbarey à M. le C.te de Vergennes, écrite à Versailles le 26 Juillet 1778.

Vous vous rapellés, M. qu'il a été convenu que des differents effets d'artillerie que demandoit l'état de Virginie et qu'il étoit question de faire rassembler à Nantes, pour être mis plus à portée de passer à leur destination, partie y seroit rendüe de la Rochelle, et le surplus de Dunkerque pour ceux de ces effets qu'on etoit obligé de tirer des places de la frontière. Il ne reste plus maintenant que à faire rendre ceux ci à Nantes, p[illegible] joints aux autres; le Directeur de Dunkerque voit un danger si évident à se servir de la mer pour ce transport, qu'il à crû devoir faire suspendre jusqu'à nouvel ordre, la remise de ces effets au Commissaire g.l aux transports de l'artillerie. Quoique celui ci eut frété quatre batimens très propres à cotoyer. Il faut considérer cependant que toute autre voye deviendroit fort dispendieuse sur le compte en effet que je m'en suis fait rendre, le transport de ces effets par terre depuis Dunkerque jusqu'à Orleans où on prendroit la Loire pour économiser les frais jusqu'à Nantes, couteroit encore 30,000.lt au moins de plus que par la mer.

Dans cette circonstance il me paroit convenable que vous vouliez bien en conférer avec le député de cet État, et me marquer ensuite quelle voye je dois prendre pour faire rendre les dits effets de Dunkerque à Nantes.

J'ai &c

État des Effets d'artillerie que l'on peut fournir

Effets d'artillerie			Lieux d'où les Effets seront tirés
Bouches à feu	8	de 24	de Calais
	4	de 8	de Calais
	4	de 4	de Calais
Affuts	8	de 24	de Calais
	4	de 8	de Dunkerque
	4	de 4	de Calais
obusiers	6	de 8	de Douay
affuts	6	de 8	de Douay ou la Fère
Mortiers	4	de 12 pouces	de Douay

on les substitue aux mortiers de 10 pouces, attendu que l'on ne pourait trouver des affuts de ce dernier Calibre

Affuts Mortiers	2	de 8 pouces	de Douay
Affuts			de Douay
Pierriers	2		de Douay
Affuts			de Douay

Grapes de raisin — Il n'y en a plus, on y poura substituer des Cartouches à balles de fer battu, mais on serait obligé de les tirer de Metz

Boulets	de 24	2000	de Calais
	de 8	4000	de Dunkerque
	de 4	8000	de Id. et de Calais
Obus	de 8 pouces	4000	d'Avesnes
Bombes	de 12	2000	d'Avesnes
	de 8	1000	d'Avesnes
Fusées à bombes		2000	de Dunkerque

Bricolles
Serges et papier pour Cartouches à Canon } on n'en a point en Magasin, on ne s'en procure que lorsqu'on en a besoin

N° 6

Passi ce 27 juillet 1778.

Monsieur

J'ay reçeu La Lettre que vous m'avez fait L'honneur de m'écrire Le 22 en réponse a ma Lettre du 13 de ce mois; Je Crois devoir vous assurer que la Personne qui a donné L'avis que J'ay transmis a M. franklin n'a Jamais habité Nantes et s'occupe depuis que les grenesiens prennent nos navires Marchands a connoistre leurs relations dans Nos ports, d'ou ils sont si bien informés qu'ils frappent toujours a Coup seur. il est tout Simple que cette personne aye été offusquée de trouver dans vostre Correspondant a Nantes le Beau frere d'un grenesien faisant Commerce avec tous ses parents de grenesy. il etoit possible de Croire que M. vostre frere

a Monsieur Lee
ministre plenepotentiaire du Congrès

ignorant toutes ces particularités, Mais desquelles vous paraissent a vous, Marin qui estes chargé de la chose publique indifferentes, elles le deviennent pour moy qui n'ay que des voeux a faire pour vos succès et qui ne l'espere pas d'en faire.

Je suis avec respect

Monsieur

Votre tres humble
et tres obeissant serv
Leray de Chaumont

Pin 3 L M

My dear Brother, Phila July 27th 1778

(No 244)

Your letter of the 12th came only to hand this day by Post, amazing delay, but I have spoken to the Post Master on this business until I am tired — It astonishes me that neither you or my other friends receive my letters, altho I write so many — To you I have not missed above one post since we parted & then I wrote by Mr Armstead — I trust that before this gets to hand you will have received my letters in which I have given you a full account of the transactions in the Jerseys, of the arrival & progress of the French Squadron, & of the coming of a Plenipotentiary from the Court of France to Congress. The Squadron is gone to Rhode Island to make a sweep there as the large Ships of this fleet cannot find water enough to enter the Harbour of N. York wherein the English Ships keep themselves close. I understand that measures will be taken to prevent egress from York or succours getting in. It is this day confidently reported that 27 sail of the provision fleet from Cork have fallen into the hands of Count D'Estaing, this is not yet certain, but we know such a fleet has been long & daily expected — We understand the enemy are greatly distressed for provisions in N. York particularly of the bread kind — Gen. Washington has sent 2 Brigades to join 3000 Men under Gen. Sullivan to assist in the business of Rh. Island — Where you are nothing better can be done than to inform the people and prevent their being imposed on — The change in affairs has occasioned Congress to devise that both

supplies of Infantry & Cavalry from Virg.a voted by
last Assembly may be not sent forward [blot] & the Expe-
-ditions agst Detroit is changed to a Chastisement of
the offending Indian Tribes to the West & Northwest.]
I will attend as you desire to the payment of Hillegas
& will keep the rest of yr. money for your further orders.
There has been no time yet to procure an order for settlement
of Accounts either here or abroad, but I hope it will be
done soon — Mr. D—e is deep in the 282 b v III
for supporting 115 b XXX v III & the 270 b XXX v so that
he remains 109 a XX v I tho leave of absence has been
long asked & granted — I am realy tired with the
folly & the wickedness of Mankind, and wish most
earnestly to be retired absolutely — Mr. Holker
has been, since the arrival of the Plenipotentiary,
appointed by him Agent for the Marine of France in
these States, but more of this hereafter — I will
send yr. book if a good opportunity offers &
I thank you for your offer to use what I want
but I am pretty well supplied —
My love to Mrs. Lee & regards to all
friends — Much hurried — Yours sincerely
Richard Henry Lee

Let me know how Colo. Tayloe does, I
am greatly concerned for him.

R.H. Lee to F. Lightfoot Lee
July 27th 1778

(No 244) ~~(177)~~

R.H.L. from Phila.
July 27. 1778

A Lee Papers

No. 177.

28 July 78

Extraits des Dépêches Ministériales

Vienne du 11 et 23 Juillet 1778. (de Degenfeld) Le lendemain devoient comencer les grandes Processions, & durer trois jours, selon la coutume toutes les fois qu'il y a guerre. — L'Empereur s'est avancé à Jaromits, pour comander lui-même l'Armée contre le Roi, & sous lui Lascy, le Duc Albert de Saxe, & Haddik. Laudon & Lichtenstein, sont sur les Frontieres de la Saxe contre le Prince Henri. — Le Ministre de Saxe est encore à Vienne, & va tous les jours chez le Prince de Kaunitz. — On a reçu la nouvelle sure, que le vaisseau envoyé il y a déja lontemps de Triest à Livourne, & delà au Bengale, a fait un petit établissement sur la Côte d'Afrique, d'où il trafique à Surate; que toute sa cargaison, consistant en armes de cuivre, & canons, s'est vendue avec tant de profit, qu'il y aura deux cargaisons de Vaisseaux à renvoyer en Europe au comencement de l'année prochaine. On équipe actuellement deux Vaisseaux à Triest, qui doivent prendre encore cette année le même cours que le premier.

Ratisbonne d. 16 & 23 Juillet. Min.re Galliéris. Dans une des dernieres Assemblées Mr. De Borié, Ministre d'Autriche, a doné à connoître aux autres Ministres de la Diete, que l'Imp.ce Reine regarderoit come ses ennemis ceux de ses Co-Etats qui favoriseroient le parti du Roi de Prusse.

Paris à LL. EE. M. les Plenip. des E. U. de l'Am. la haie 28e. Juillet

Voilà, Messieurs, la quintessence de douze pages Hollandoises in folio, que je viens de parcourir. Les dépêches de Cologne, Paris, Elseneur, Hambourg, Bruxelles, Londres, aucune ne contiennent rien qui puisse vous interesser.

On a ici la nouvelle sure d'une suspension d'armes en Allemagne jusqu'au 1er. d'Août; & l'on croit généralement que la paix s'ensuivra. Le Roi a fait venir ses principaux Ministres à Glatz pour examiner de nouvelles propositions faites par la Cour de Vienne. —

J'ai porté ce matin une Copie du Traité que le g— F— a fait faire par ses Comis, & où l'on a omis les art. 11 & 12, au G— P—. Il m'a reçu

poliment, & promis de ne pas le laisser répandre, jusqu'à ce que vous m'ayiez écrit qu'il peut être publié. Il m'a demandé ce que je pensois du succès qu'auroit la Comission Bt. en Am—. J'ai répondu que j'étois sur qu'il seroit mauvais. Il m'a demandé ce que je pensois de la négociation du Mis d'Almodovar; j'ai dit que cela me paroissoit le dernier effort de la maison de Bourbon pour conserver la paix, & que je ne doutois nullement d'un parfait accord entre la France & l'Espe. Il étoit de mon sentiment sur l'un & l'autre article. Enfin il me demanda si vous ne m'aviez rien mandé de l'état interne des choses en Am—. Je sentis ce qu'il vouloit dire, & lui répondis que j'étois chargé de déclarer, que la plus parfaite union ~~union~~ regnoit parmi le Congrès & dans les differents Etats; que ce qu'on débitoit de la mésintelligence entre le Congrès & le Général W. étoit la plus insigne imposture, & que l'Am— ne feroit point la paix, si la France n'y étoit comprise, & son Traité avec elle approuvé.

J'ai aussi envoyé ~~aussi~~ Mr Van Berkel le Pensionaire d'Amsterdam, une pareille Copie, avec la Lettre dont voici copie.

La h. 27 Juillet 1778

" M. chargé par Mrs. les Plenipres des E. U. de l'A. de vous
" faire parvenir la Copie ci-jointe du Traité d'Am. & de Com.
" ~~contre~~ conclu entre la France & les dits Etats, avec le témoi-
" gnage de la haute estime & considération qu'ils ont pour Vous
" en particulier & pour tous les hon. membres de la Régence d'Am

" sterdam en général; je m'acquitte de ces ordres avec toute la
" satisfaction & l'empressement que me dicte mon respectu-
" eux attachement aux intérêts de cette Rep.—Mrs. les Pleni-
" potentiaires vous prient de vouloir ne communiquer ce Traité
" que de maniere qu'il ne puisse s'en répandre des Copies, jus-
" qu'à-ce qu'ils m'aient écrit qu'il peut être public, & entre les
" mains de tout le monde. J'ai porté ce matin à Mr. le G—P—
" une copie pareille, avec la meme priere. Je joins à cela
" une proclamation du Congrès, que je viens de recevoir, &
" dont je pense que la Communication vous fera plaisir. Elle
" va paroître dans les Gazettes en françois & hollandois, &
" doit autant satisfaire les Puissances maritimes, qu'elle
" fait honneur à l'équité & à la sagesse du Congrès."

La Poste va partir. Il ne me reste qu'un instant pour vous présenter les assurances du respect avec lequel je suis

Messieurs

Les Etats d'Holl^de. se rassembleront ici le 26 Août.

Votre très humble & très obéissant serviteur Dumas

M. Grand presents his best Respects to Mr.
A. Lee, craves the favour to be assisted with
his superior Memory relating the following
Articles. Mr Grand begs Mr. A Lee
to tell him at same time when he intends
leaving Paris, that he may go & take
his leave of him before he goes.

1777
January 20. folio said, he has paid — £ 7201..16
to Messrs Franklin, Deane & A. Lee —
did Mr. Lee live with the other Comissrs
at that time? or has he had his share of said Money?
30 folio said, he has paid — — 2400..12
by some Commissioners order, has Mr. Lee
any notice of that sum? ~~wh~~ was it for
household Expenses, or had he his share in it
1778
Jany 13 Grand paid Dubois martin, by Dr. Franklin
& A. Lee their order — 6353
who is that Dubois martin? & on what
acct was that Money paid him

Feby 16 Grand paid Harman Courter
£52.10 stg — — — — 1200 „ „
17 the same — — — — 2400 „ „
what were the titles of that Gentlmn.
to that Money? does Mr. Lee recollect.
July 3 paid Livingston by Messs Franklin Lee
& adams 720.tt was that Gentln. an
express of Congress? the Captn. of some
Ship? or a Prisoner?
28 paid Corbin Barnes, by same order 2108.15
same Questions?

I hope you will excuse this Importunité en faveur du Motif, qui me fait travailler pour les Etats unis sans relache. happy if my Work can be agreable.

E.in 8 Letter (No 245)

Dr Sir Bushfield 20th July 1778

This letter goes by a Servant dispatched to Leeds to meet with the Letters and papers that may come by the Post for this neighbourhood, we are in high expectation of some good news from the North, the hurry the French Admiral seemed to be in from your last favour to me, induces a belief that he will attack the English fleet as soon as he comes up with them, and we hope with good effect — there is one circumstance that is a little alarming, the one published by order of Congress, that a British fleet stronger than the french was expected over, if they should arrive, it would be a fatal blow upon our Friends the French, however it will at any rate hurry them to the immediate execution of any enterprise they may think them selves capable of carrying through against the enemies Fleet. I am apprehensive that the British Fleet may be so drawn up as to be considerably aided by Batteries at New York and the Islands adjacent, however this is mear conjecture, for I am not acquainted with the situation, depth of water &c. — it is repor:ted with us that the Continental Army are ordered to attack N. York, and that the Militia for 50 miles round are ordered to their aid — it would give me pleasure to hear where our Army is, their supposed strength, and that of the enemies — now that our af:

affairs seem drawing nigh to a happy conclusion, I am if possable more anxecious then I ever was, formerly I had many serious thoughts about the safety of our army, now I am all impatience to hear of some de:=sisive stroak that may at once finish the great and importent business we have been ingaged in to our honour, and the happiness of a great Country — I have no news to communicate to you, only that we have had a great deal too much rain for the necks, but I suppose your high land will be benifited by it, the prospect for Corn is good if the grass can be kep under, and the Crops of S.N. in general are planted — Mr Stubbs who lived with me has two tickets in the Continental Lottery which he is desirous of continueing, if you will be so kind as to put them forward in the 2d Class, the same sum shall be paid here for your use upon demand by me, the Numbers are 50,265 & 50,271 he may have drawn some of the small prises but does not know

I mentioned to you the numbers of my three in my last, but least that letter should miscarry it may not be amiss to mention them here 36,001; 36,451 & 36,829 I am Dr Sir Your Very affte and obliged Friend &c &c

John Augt Washington

To

The Hon.ble Rich.d Henry Lee esq
Member of Congress
at

to be forwarded by
the post office at [illegible]
[illegible]

To

The Honble. Richd. Henry Lee Esqr.
Member of Congress
at

To be forwarded from the post Office at Leeds Town } Philadelphia

Jno: Augt. Washington
8 letters
(~~No 462~~)
(No 245)

No 472.

Washington 98

Sn. Seb.n Julio 28 de 1778

No ha lugar ala Informacion q.e se pretende p.r no ser dudo lo uno, y lo otro p.r no entrar en t.po para ella: Y para evitar mas demoras, perjuicios, y atrasos a riesgo del Cuidado del Gracioso ma... may, sus fletes del Navio y sus dueños, y de Guimbo Cunningam todos apelantes, en Virtud de q.e no obstante el reparo del Auto de 21 de este fol. 183 b.ta convienen ad.o Lecormus los dueños del Navio en la prevencion dela Apelacion; se admite esta en Ambos efectos, provease testimonio con insercion dela dem.da de todos los autos siguientes a ella y de este; con relacion tambien en el deber los poderes de Cunnyghan de ausente, sin traigo su certificacion ... y los de Lecormus, y sus dueños del el navio, y fletes y ser de mucho valor los generos almacenados: Que conviene en ello se remitan los autos originales el primer Correo, de officio al Real y supremo Consejo de Guerra, en cumplim.to del art.o 36. tit.o 5. delas Ordenanzas de Marina, precedida tasacion, y pay las costas procesales, deposito, y demas devengados, pagandose p.r ahora del dinero depositado para reponer aut.po conveniente mandado: Y provease dela copia pedida en el otro sí. De Barcorta Lic.do Etxomegui

Al Pedim.to de apelacion de esta im.di
en lo de Guimbo Cunnyghan

Sn. Seb.n Julio 28 de 1778

Al auto de oi y con arreglo del emodo. De Barcorta, Lic.
Etxomegui

Al de Allen

Sn. Seb.n Julio 28 de 1778

No tiene poder de ausente con lo necesario en tal caso
De Barcorta: Lic.do Etxomegui

Arthur Lee Esqr

Chaillot

Bilbao 29 July 1778

Sir I have at length got the Liberty of Capt. Allen and his Crew who are now here with some more Sailors which have been taken and sett onshore in Spain, I have a Schooner here what is a remarkable fine Sailer & these People seem disposed to make a Cruize this Summer before they go home therefore I am preparing to Arm the Vessell as a Privateer — If you can send me a Commission by return of Post you will oblige me very Much as the Vessell will be ready by that time and wait only for that — there have been no Arrivals here for some months Past from America consequently No News — The Schooner is Calld the Newbury John Allen Comr. mounts 8 Carriage Guns & 8 Swivels & 30 hands

am Sir your Most Obt Servt

Jno Emery

Messrs Franklin & Adams

If there is no objection be so good as to send the Bilbo dispatch a Commission &c.
Augst. 9th 1778

A Lee.

a Versailles Le 29 juillet 1778

J'ai reçu, Messieurs, La Lettre que vous m'avés fait L'honneur de m'écrire Le 15 de Ce mois. Sa majesté Compte beaucoup sur Les secours En vivres que Le gouvernement de la Baye de Massachusset pourra procurer aux isles St pierre et Miquelon.

Les difficultés que les Corsaires des Etats unis ont Eprouvées jusqu'à Ce jour dans les ports de France soit pour la vente de leurs prises, soit pour la garde de leurs prisonniers doivent Cesser par le changement de Circonstances. Je ne doute pas, d'un autre Côté que Les Etats unis ne procurent dans leurs ports les memes facilités aux Corsaires françois. pour remplir le double objet, j'ai fait rediger un projet de Reglement que je m'empresse de vous Communiquer - je vous prie de L'examiner, et de me marquer Ce que vous en penserés, ou meme de m'indiquer d'autres moiens pour atteindre Le meme But, afin que je puisse prendre Les ordres de sa majesté

J'ay L'honneur d'Etre avec un sincere

Mrs Les deputés des Etats unis de L'amerique

attachement, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur.

[illegible signature]

I promise to repay to Arthur Lee Esq.r the sum of 48.tt lent me by Ludwell Lee — Paris the 30 July 1778. C. Bargum

Livres 48..

No 1

(No. 207)

Chaillot July 30th 1778

Sir

I have not had one moments Leisure from public Business to search for the papers you mention, which are among a Multitude of others. When I have finished signing the Books, which occupies me totally at present I will look for them, unless some really pressing Use for them should make you desire it sooner.

It was, I think, the 11th of last Month, that I desired you to give in the Vouchers of your Accounts, without which it is impossible to settle them. But not one of them has yet appeared. I have mentioned that these are as necessary to your Justification, as to our Information; and as, you say, you have them with you, I cannot comprehend why they are withheld.

There appears to me a multitude of errors; which, perhaps, the Vouchers may clear up. But without them, I will venture to say, whoever examines your accounts accurately will have reason to think the Ballance much against you. You have acknowledged two of the Charges, I pointed out ~~[illegible]~~, to be erroneous; yet you have received the Ballance as if they were right. Since the last of May, when the Ballance is made, you have received, besides from our Banker, 17272 „ 12; the public Share of the prize sold by Delap remains in your hands; the paper money is not included in the order to M Schweighauser; the Receipts for the Money you have lent, which we ought to have transmitted to Congress, are not given in.

If I am wrong in my Judgement that your Accts are unjust, & the Vouchers will remove that Error, why will you not give them in? Was the demand of them infinitely less essential than it is, the respect you owe the public should have induced you long ago to have complied with it. That this is required of you, & indispensibly too, I again tell you, not as Mr. Lee, but as a Trustee

for the public, you will not consult your own good in continuing to refuse them.

The dates of the Letters of which I desired Copies, as you you yourself have refered to them for your orders, are June 27th — July 19th. 20th. — Augt. 1st. & 7th. — Novr. 15th. all in 1777.

I am Sir &c

signed A. Lee

Triplicate Copy

H. Ford Jr.

Mr. Jona. Williams

Monsieur

Je fis part dans son temps à M. Deane, de L'Etat dans lequel se trouvoit l'affaire du Capitaine Cunningham, qui fut recommandée à ma Maison par Celle de Mrs. Gardoqui & fils de Bilbao: je Crus dans un temps que la tournure en auroit été favorable, & bien differente de Celle que vous verrés Monsieur, par la Copie de la Sentance que j'ai L'honneur de vous remettre.

Vous n'ignorés pas je pense Monsieur, d'après les entretiens que j'ai eus avec M. Emery, les ressorts dont je me valus, ils furent bien Puissants, mais l'Evenement n'a pas Correspondus à mes attentes. on à fait appel au Conseil de Guerre, il n'a pas été admis, j'en ai remis acte à M. Gardoqui à Madrid, & Comme par toute la procedure il paroit que le Capitaine

Monsieur Lée

Cunningham est au Service des Etats unis de l'Amerique, je Crois Monsieur, quil est de mon devoir de vous en faire part, pour que vous puissiés voir la Conduitte que vous aurés à prescrire dans le Cas où vous aurièz à Soutenir la Conduitte d'un officier de l'honnorable Congrés, dont les Prises se trouveroient Exposées à etre Saisies dans tous les Ports de Ce Royaume, pouvant vous assurer qu'on va remettre la procédure en Consulte au Conseil de Guerre, dans la vüe sans doute d'obtenir une approbation Généralle, & Coupé par Cette voye tout recours.

M. Emery, vous à instruit Monsieur de la malheureuse affaire de l'arrêtement de la Prise de la Bretania Capne Allen, que ma maison qui s'emploira avec le meme Zele dans tout Ce qui pourra Contribuer à l'heureux succés des interets des Etats unis de l'amerique, à Suivi ici. J'ai vu par Ce quil m'a Communiqué à Son retour pour Bilbao, la tournure bien frivole qu'on vous à donné Monsieur, Sur le Cautionnement que j'avois offert pour obtenir Sa liberté, vous aurés trouvé bien Surprenant

qu'offrant un Cautionnement pour les frais d'une Procedure Civile, on la rendit Criminelle, et qu'on exigeat une responsabilité de Corps pour Corps; C'est nier formellement, le Cautionnement qu'on offroit, C'est un refus Complet. vous ne serez pas moins Surpris que n'admettant pas l'appel de sa Condamnation dont j'ai l'honneur de vous inclure une Copie, on l'aye pourtant mis en liberté avec tout son Equipage, sous le simple Cautionnement de ma maison d'être à droit en Cas de la Confirmation de la Sentance, de rembourser à la Masse Commune, le montant des débours de leur entretien, sans en Exiger aucun pour la demarche, je dis pour la poursuite de la procedure, demarche Contradictoire à tout ce qu'on avoit exigé precedamment. j'ai remis les actes de l'appel, à M. Gardoqui à Madrid, on m'avoit Confié la procedure sous la plus grande reserve pour extraire les nottes nécessaires, pour sa poursuite au Conseil de Guerre à Madrid, mais comme la vente du Navire est fixé pour le 3e. Aout, j'ai été obligé de la rendre; on me la Confiera de nouveau après les Encheres, L'avocat finira de prendre les nottes nécessaires; j'auray l'honneur

alors, l'honneur devous en remettre un precis, pour qu'au-cas que vous le trouviez Convenable, vous puissiez en parler avec Mr. le Comte D'aranda. dans Ce meme moment le procureur d'Allen, Vient me Communiquer le decret mis à sa derniere Requette, demandant qu'on le pourvut de l'acte negatif de l'appel de la Sentance, le voici, il est bien Court, mais en meme temps d'une obscurité incomprehensible. = San Sebastian = Julio 28. de 1778. Muestre poder de au ente, = Con lo necesario, en tal Caso, de Basecourt = Lizdo. Arostegui.

Allen s'est retiré aprés avoir rempli toutes les formalités de droit, & avec un Passeport bien emple de Monsieur le Marquis de Basecourt, la tournure que donne Son Lettreur, est un mistere que je ne puis penétrer, il n'y a nul deffaut de forme, je vais en faire part à M. Gardoqui à Madrid, & j'espere fort, que je ne tarderai pas à recevoir un ordre du Conseil de Guerre pour la remise de toute la procedure.

Ma maison attend Monsieur tous les jours à Cadix, un Navire qu'elle à dans l'expedition de M. de Cevallos, Ce navire est de quarante huit Coudées Espagnolles de quille, & un trés

fin Voilier, il à une marche Superieure àtous les Vaisseaux de Cette Expedition, Si vous etiés dans le Cas d'en faire quelqu'une pour Compte de l'honnorable Congrés, où D'amis, il est à vôtre Service, moyennant qu'on ne l'aye pas employé à Son retour, je Seray charmé qu'il peut vous Convenir, dans Ce Cas, je pourrois lui faire prendre du Sel, & Si le fer, & l'acier, peuvent être des articles propres pour L'amerique, vous n'en Scauriés trouver du meilleur qu'ici. pour les ancres, les nôtres Sont d'une Superiorité reconnüe à toutes les autres de L'Europe; je présume Monsieur, que vous pourriés vous trouver dans le Cas d'en avoir besoin pour là Marine des Etats unis, Monsieur Deane m'en demanda le prix, je le luy remis, precisement vers le temps qu'il devoit avoir en Vuë Son Embarquement prochain, voici à la Suitte la notte de leur prix, avec Celle des fers, je Serois charmé qu'elle vous fût utile, & que je puisse être assés heureux, que de vous être de quelqu'utilité dans Cette ville.

Vous Serés informé Monsieur, de l'arrivée à Cadiz, de quatre Vaisseaux de Guerre, Conduisant la Garnison de L'isle de Ste Catherine, on attend tous les jours, le Convoy de buenos Ayres,

un Navire arrivé hier de Cadiz, a rencontré sur le Cap St. Vincent environ quarante Voilles destinées pour Gibraltar Convoyées par deux Vaisseaux de Guerre. on arme le peu de Vaisseaux qui restent au ferrol, ce qui doit nous persuader, que notre Cour ne tardera pas à Suivre le bon Exemple de Celle de Versailles: la Cause des États unis de L'Amerique, est trop belle pour que chacun n'i prenne le plus vif interêt.

il est trés Sur Monsieur, qu'on remet à Madrid, la procedure de Cunningham, je vais faire ensorte de vous remettre Copie du dernier arrêt, pour peu que le Courrier me le permette.

J'ai l'honneur d'etre avec Respect,

Monsieur,

Votre trés humble et trés obéïssant Serviteur,

Gardoqui? Larralde Diustegui

St. Sebastien Le 31e. Juillet 1778.

Notte des differents articles

Acier, Ron. 144. le quintal de 100 lb. poids de marc,
Ancres, du poids de 100: à 2000. lb. 100. Ron. le quintal
ditto du poids de 2000: à 3000 lb. Ron. 106.
ditto du poids de 3000 lb. en sus de 110. Ron. en haut
Suivant les differentes grandeurs
fer Plat double 79: à 82. Ron. le quintal de 150 lb.
ditto quarré même prix
ditto Martinet, diverses Grosseurs & Largeurs 90. à 94 R.
ditto plat même prix
ditto rond, ou cheville pour la Construction suivant
Ses differentes Grosseurs, depuis 94. à 120 R.

En outre, toute sorte de Cloux, propres pour la Construction, suivant leurs qualités & dimentions. tous les Arsenaux du Roy se fournissent d'ici –

Sir.

Passy July 31. 1778.

[No 209]

I have recd your favour of yesterday.

I have realy a pressing occasion for the Letters from Mr Deane to me, and request to have them returned by the Bearer.

I have already informed you that I could not part with the original Vouchers of my accts, because they are my Securities against any second demand, for I must on every such occasion have the original Bills and Receipts to prove that the money has been paid. These Bills & Receipts are ready for examination whenever the Commissioners please; and they may order them all to be copied. Copies from me would not be authentic, for if I were wicked enough to make a false Charge, I could easily support it by a false Copy. In commercial Concerns, the Signature of a reputable Merchant is generaly recd as valid, that Signature always leaves him open to exami-nation, and if his Probity is suspected, his Vouchers are demanded, examined with him, & then returned to him again. I have been two months at Passy for this purpose, and have frequently desired an Examination which I supposed to be delay'd in consequence of the Commissioners more important Vocations, I therefore am

The

the 17th Inst. proposed that some Person might be appointed to compare the Vouchers with the accounts: This Letter remains unanswered. — — I have not understood that a similar Demand of Vouchers has ever been made on any person but myself. The Accts of public Business in the several Ports of France have been passed under the Signature of Captains of Ships, and I dare say no original Bills & Receipts will be found among them. I should also have exhibited my Ship Accts in the same way, had not the hurry of dispatching so many Vessells together on acct of the Convoy made it impossible to collect all the Bills before their Departure; — But a great part of my Business has been such as could not admit of such a Signature, I do therefore earnestly desire that some person may examine the accts and after comparing the Vouchers attest them. — I embraced the first opportunity after Capt Jones's Return, to give the Rangers accts that sort of authenticity; he looked at the Bills & said they appeared fairly and uprightly charged, but that it was not the Business of the Captain of a Ship of War to sign agents accts. Thus am I kept in suspence, for want of its being known by whom, how, or when my Accts are to be examined; — In the mean time I lie under the Imputation of their being called unjust, tho' I cant allow myself to think you suppose me capable of making a false Charge, if you do, I will venture to say it is an opinion lately adopted, for the Instances of your applause & approbation are yet recent in my memory. You say I have acknowledged two of the Charges

you

you found out to be erroneous — I do not remember but one (720 Livres 11) which I noticed to you immediately on seeing it: I never wait for Errors to be pointed out, when I can discover them myself. —

The Sum drawn from Mr Grand by my House since I came away is for subsequent Disbursements, the accts for which will be made up on my Return to Nantes: If I receive them before they shall be immediately exhibited. The Bills received from Mr Delap I informed the Commissioners of as soon as they came to hand, they will of course go to the Credit of the Commissioners acct, tho' they are not payable 'till 3 months after date. — The Paper money was not included in the order for Mr Schweighauser, because that order was for Goods to be shipped to America: this and the Receipts you mention will be given in when the accts are settled. — I believe at the final Settlement there will not be found a Balance against me, but should it be so, I will immediately repay the Money. —

No American can have a greater Respect for the public than myself, and that commands attention to its Trustees. — I thank you for your warning relative to my own Good, and I shall carefully consult it in everything that relates to my Honour & Reputation, in any other View I am not very solicitous about it. — I am Sir

Your most humble & most obedient Servant

Jon. Williams

The Hon. Arthur Lee Esq.

(No 209) Jona.n Williams
to
Arthur Lee
(July 31 1778.)

J. Williams

(N°208)

A Versailles le 31 Juillet 1778.

M. le C. de Vergennes étant Surchargé de travail, il m'a chargé de vous faire part de la bonne nouvelle que nous venons de recevoir.

Un premier Avis qui nous etoit parvenu ce matin, nous avoit annoncé un combat entre M le C. D'orvilliers et M. L'Amiral Keppel. Deux couriers qui viennent d'arriver, confirment cette importante nouvelle. Le Combat s'est engagé lundi dernier, 27 de ce mois, vers midi, et a ete general et desplus vifs. M. D'orvillier ayant de l'Avantage apres plusieurs heures de Combat a reviré Sur Son Ennemi, pour le Serrer de pres; mais le Vent étant devenu favourable a M. Keppel, celui-ci la mis a profit pour eviter le Combat que notre flotte s'efforcoit de rengager; il a éteint tous ses feux, tandis que tous les notres etoient allumés, et il a profité de la nuit pour fuir, et pour laisser a M. D'orvilliers le Champ de battaille, et l'honneur du Combat. Notre flotte est rentrée dans Brest pour Se reparer. Nous n'avons encore que peu de detail de cette glorieuse Affaire; mais nous ne tarderons pas d'en avoir. Je Suis certain, que vous partagez la Satisfaction qu'elle nous donne; car notre cause est commune.

Gerard de Rayneval.

Les Anglais avoient 32 V. de ligne

~~[illegible]~~

de Rayneval (to A.L.)
31st July 1778.

(No 208)

(Nov 378)

Rayneval & Gerard &c
act of naval project

No. 378

Dr Sir

We have a full and unanimous Ratification of the Treaty, and abundance of Letters, which I have neither Time nor Light to read.

J. Adams

I sent Eleven Letters to you, your Brother & Mrs. Izard ~~and~~ three Books I suppose

Dear Sir,

Williamsburg 1 Aug. 1778. (79)

I find I am in your debt for interesting intelligence, and feel myself able to discharge it no otherwise than by ~~thanky~~ thanking you; for I hear nothing in this quarter lately worth communicating — I say discharge; for an ethic writer, of the first class, hath taught me, that gratiam et qui retulit habet, et qui habet dissolvit. By another way, however, I may be even with you. The pleasure you will be sensible of when I tell you, that letters from you at all times augment my happiness, must remunerate you for the trouble it costs you to write them. This consideration encourages me to hope for the continuance of a correspondence valuable, I know, to one, and not otherwise, I flatter myself, to the other. Shall I put the papers in the suit brought in the name of mr Gaskins against mr Pinckard into the hands of our attorney general? I have better reasons for recommending him than that I have a kindness for him. Present my compliments to your brother, and my other countrymen, and be assured that I am your friend

G. Wythe.

82 / 82

Free

Hon. Richard Henry Lee,
Member of Congress for Virginia,
Philadelphia

1st Aug. 1778
Hon. Mr. Wythe

(No 210) Aug. 2. 1778

Captain Jones begs the Commissioners to Oblige him with Copies of the following letters — or with the liberty of taking Copies of Monseigneur De Sartines letter to the Commission-ers respecting Captain Jones, of their answer to that letter, — of the Commissioners letter to Lieutenant Simpson in consequence of Captain Jones' proposition in his favor, — and of the Paper dated the 4th of July — which being a memorandum of what Captain Jones had to communicate in conversation, he made out but one Copy.

Passy, Sunday Morning Aug. 2d 1778.

Their Excellencies

The American Plenipotentiaries.

(Copy)

(No 210)

Captn Jones
to
American Plenipos.
(2 Augt 1778.)

1778

Le Comte de Vergennes est fort sensible a l'attention qu'a eue Monsieur Lee de lui envoyer la lettre du Congrès et les differens Papiers anglois qui y etoient joints. Il garde ceux ci pour en faire usage. Il profite de cette occasion pour renouveller a Monsieur Lee l'assurance de ses sentimens

a Versailles le 3 aoust 1778

Count de Vergennes is very sensible of Mr. Lee's attention in sending him the Letter of Congress & the english Papers. He will keep these to make use of them. He profits of this occasion to repeat to Mr. Lee the assurance of his esteem.

Versailles Augt. 3. 1778

Paris à LL. EE. M. les Plénip. des E. U. de l'Am.

La Haie 4e. Août 1778

Messieurs,

J'ai eu l'honneur de vous envoyer copie de la Lettre que j'ai écrite à Mr. Van Berkel Pensionaire d'Amsterdam le 27 du mois passé. Il m'a répondu ce qui suit de l'endroit où il est allé passer l'Eté, peu éloigné d'Amsterdam.

"Heereschans 31e. Juillet 1778

"Monsieur,

Je vous ai bien de l'Obligation, pour la bonté que vous avez eue de m'envoyer la Copie du Traité d'Amitié & de Commerce, conclu entre la France & les Etats-Unis de l'Amérique. Et come ç'a été à la requisition des Plénipotentiaires des dits Etats, oserois-je vous prier, de témoigner à ces Messieurs la reconnoissance de la Régence d'Amsterdam en général, & la mienne en particulier, pour cette marque de distinction: Que nous espérons, que les circonstances permettront bientôt, de donner des marques de la haute estime que nous avons pour la Nouvelle République, visiblement érigée par le secours de la Providence, pendant que l'Esprit de despotisme est domté; & que nous desirons de faire des liaisons d'amitié & de Comerce entre les Sujets réciproques, qui soient durables jusqu'à la fin des siecles: Que ce qui m'afflige

flige, c'est qu'il n'est pas dans notre pouvoir, de faire agir les autres membres du Gouvernement come nous voudrions; dans lequel cas la République se seroit déjà comportée d'une autre façon. Mais je suis persuadé que les Américains sont trop sages, pour ne pas en pénétrer les véritables causes, & pour attribuer l'inaction de Leurs Hautes Puissances, jusqu'à-présent, à un défaut d'estime & d'affection pour les Etats-Unis. Cette République est encore remplie de gens qui pensent come il faut: Mais il se trouve ici, come ailleurs, des partisans d'un (certain) systême, qui, soit par leur ignorance & stupidité, soit par la méchanceté de leur coeur, & des vues abominables, empêchent les gens de bien d'avancer autant qu'ils voudroient.

Je m'attends à des nouvelles considérables dans les circonstances actuelles de l'Europe; & je m'impatiente d'en recevoir qui soient de bonne influence sur l'affaire en ~~consideration~~ question.

Je prendrai garde que le susdit Traité n'entre pas en mauvaises mains, & qu'il ne s'en fasse point de Copie avant le temps.

Je suis avec beaucoup de considération

Monsieur

Votre très-humble serviteur

Signé E. F. Van Berkel."

Adresse: Mr. Dumas
à La Haie.

Cette Lettre a paru très importante à S. E. Mr. l'Ambassadr. de F— à qui je la comuniquai tout de suite Samedi passé. Il en fit prendre Copie, ainsi que de la mienne du 27, à qui elle répond, pour les envoyer en Cour ce même ordinaire ci; & il m'a fort recomandé, de ne pas manquer de vous en envoyer aussi une Copie aujourd'hui.

Je suis toujours avec le plus respectueux dévouement

Messieurs

Votre très humble & très obéissant serviteur Dumas

P. S. cette Lettre étoit écrite hier 3e lorsque Mr. l'Ambassadr. de France m'a fait chercher après 8 h. du soir, pour m'en communiquer une que Mr. le Chev. Grd. avoit reçue le ~~matin~~ même jour à 10 h. du matin, écrite du 31e Juillet à 11 heures du soir de Paris par Mr. son frere, pour lui annoncer l'importante nouvelle de la victoire remportée par Mr. le Cte. d'Orvilliers sur Mr. Keppel. Je vous en felicite, Messieurs, de tout mon coeur. Cela vient fort à propos pour nous ici.

Dépêches Ministériales extraites.

Gibraltar, à bord de la Frégatte holl.de l'Argo, du 2/28 Juillet, le Capne Kinsbergen envoie copie d'une Déclaration de l'Empereur de Maroc faite par ses ordres, par devant les Négociants Chrétiens qui se trouvent à Maroc :— Aujourd'hui, 4 Juin 1778, sont comparus devant nous les Sieurs Manuel de Ponte & Pedro Umbert, qui nous ont présenté un Papier en Idiome Arabique, dont la traduction est: (1192) de l'Ecriture de Sa Majesté.

" Les paroles que vous diront Pedro & Manuel sont de notre " ordre ; & vous publierez le tout dans les terres des Chrétiens.

La Déclaration de Pedro Umbert & Manuel de Ponte.

" Sa Maj. Imp. Q. D. G. nous a ordonné de vous dire qu'Elle est " en paix avec tout le monde, & vous ordonne de faire publier " cette déclaration en Europe dans les Gazettes.

" Que les Déserteurs qui échapperont de ses Terres, qui n'auront pas comis le Crime de lèze-majesté, seront libres, & auront " la permission d'aller où bon leur semblera.

" Que si quelqu'un échappe d'Europe aux terres de Sa M. I. " sauf pour le crime ci-dessus, il aura protection pour sa personne; " mais si le Réfugié devoit quelque chose en Europe, Sa Maj. " l'obligera de faire justice aux Créanciers qui viendront le poursuivre.

Mr. De Welderen marque dans sa derniere Dépêche à LL. HH. PP. reçue le 28, la rejection unanime des Bills conciliatoires, par l'Etat de Pensylvanie, telle que vous l'avez pu voir, Messieurs, dans la Gazette de Leyde que je vous ai envoyée, & dans les papiers Anglois.

Le reste de toutes ces Dépêches ne vaut pas la peine d'être extrait.

(No 246) Augt 7. 1778

My dear Sir

I am very much concerned to hear that Count D'Estaing has been disappointed in getting into the Harbour of New York. But notwithstanding that disappointment, I comfort myself with the expectation of the Good which must arise to America from that Fleet by cutting off the Enemy's Supplies of Provisions, & by giving us a more free Trade than we have for some time enjoyed on Account of our Coast being infested by British Men of War, which must now all be drawn to one Point to defend themselves. If the British Army is in Want of Provisions, which several Accounts tell us it is, would it not have been better for the French Fleet to have kept their Station off Sandy Hook, & intercepted all Supplies from Europe, than to have moved to Rhode Island? For tho' Rhode Island is a Place of Importance, & the destruction of their land & sea force there may be of great Consequence, yet it appears to me that it would have been better to have attempted the Ruin of their grand Army by Famine, after which Rhode Island must have fallen of Course. Now I fear they will get their Provision Vessels in safe. I wish the French Minister & Admiral may not be

deceived in their Opinion of not being molested by a Fleet from Britain. If one is not sent, their whole naval & land Power in America will shortly be destroyed; & they know their Value too well not to risk every thing to support them.

All at Mannsfeild wish you Health & Happiness

I am, dear Sir, with great Regard

Your Affectionate Friend
Mann Page Jun.r

Mannsfield
August 4th 1778

~~Fredbg~~ ~~[illegible]~~ RHL

Richard Henry Lee Esquire

in Congress

Philadelphia

Mann Page Jr
Aug. 4th '78

(~~120 375.~~)
(No 246)

40376

Arthur Lee Esqr.   Bilbao the 5th Augt 1778

Honoured Sir

We are Indebtted to your very agreable & Esteemed favours of the 16th & 19th ulto. the former giving us liverty to ship upon the old plan; Blanketts, Strong Shoes Stockings Russia, Revens Duch & Tent Cloath; accordingly have now the pleasing Satisfaction of informing yourgoodself, that our atention in collectting the above articles has been such that most part of the Sum ordered is allready Investted in them; of cource are sorry to say that there will be little left to purchase any assortment of concequence of Rigging; however rest assured good Sir that no pains will be Spared to procure the best & fittest for the purpose wantted: the rigging is an Article that we Can at any Time command with us, therefore should we have permition from our freinds to Invest any more it may be Easly effectted in less than 15 days aGoverno.

Altho' the above goods are allready, we have the very great mortification to informe you that we are at present deprived of the pleasure of shipping of them, so soon as could wish & tho we were in hopes of obtaining room on Board of a Schooner belonging to our mutuall freind Mr Emery he has ordered the Crew to fitt her out for a Privateer so that at present there is no Vessell in the river for that part of the World where those goods are destined for however we Intend to be on the watch & if agood opportunity offers shall Embrace it with pleasure.

We shall agreable to your dispositions ommitt collectting the articles desired by your Freind as farr as the 30,000 Rs. so that our sole attention will used in supplying the Publick wants.

We are greatly obliged to you for the punctuall order you was pleased to give to discharge the bills for the Ballance of our Account with you

According to the permition you are pleased to grant us we shall in future Endeavour to relieve in the most frugall way the distress of any American Sailors that should happen to arrive at this port, at present there is none in Towne as the last that came have been Employd In Mr Emery's Schooner.

In full hopes of receiving soon some favourable Accounts brought by the Two Vessells lattly arrived from your Quarters at Burdeaux; remmain with the most Sincere reggards & Esteem

Honoured Sir

your mo obt hble Servts

Joseph Gardoqui & sons

No 2 D Augt 5th 1778

Sir.

I have received your several Uncivil Letters, not to speak of them in the harsher terms they deserve. I have only time to answer, that as I conceive it more decent that you should come & receive the Letters you desire, than that I should be the bearer of them to you as you demand; they will remain here to be delivered to you when you call. At the same time, I again & again inform you, that you must bring me the Copies of those letters, which I have so long, and so repeatedly desired.

You knew that I had examined your Accts; that I would not consent to pay the Ballance you demand of the Public, because I thought it unjust; that I desired you to produce the Vouchers, which might clear up, what appeared to me on that Examination erroneous. Yet instead of doing this, you have the decency to demand that your Accounts only be examined, & to complain of Injustice in ~~this~~ not being complied with. You surely must know that the Copies of your Vouchers, compared before me, with the originals, was the easy & ~~most~~ obvious way of doing what you were desired. You will besides remember that your excuse at first was, that you should be obliged to go to Nantes for many of the Vouchers required. You have long complained that your not having an order for the payment of your drafts on Mr Grand prevented you from attending to your private Business at Nantes to your great Injury; yet at the very ~~same~~ time you knew that what prevented the Settlement of your Accts was your not giving in the Vouchers desired. And tho' without Settlement my Colleagues have long since paid you the full Ballance you demanded, with the addition of 1727₶ for which no Acct is rendered; yet

(No 207) A. Lee to J. Williams & John Ross (30 July 1778 &c) (No 139.)

your affairs which pressed so much before, have not yet called you to Nantes. If you think that instead of doing what you are desired in order to account distinctly for the Expenditure of the public Money, that you have taken out of our Bankers Hands, these ingenious devices which wade it will do you either honor or advantage, you are of a different opinion from me.

I have the honor to be &c

Signed

A. Lee

P.S.

I desire Mr Williams will understand that I am ready to receive the Vouchers required, & compare them as above. When Mr Williams had as he says — "the Instances of my applause & approbation recent in his Memory" — how could he suffer himself to take up this Business in so personal & disrespectful a manner, & to suppose that my Conduct was prompted by any other motive than a desire to do justice to the public & discharge my duty.

A L

(Duplicate Copy)

H. Ford Sec.

~~No 139~~

Mr Jon.a Williams

Arthur Lee Esq.
to Jona. Williams
& John Ross
1778

(No 214)

No date (Augt 6th 1778?)

Sir/

I have received your several uncivil Letters not to speak of them in the harsher terms they deserve. I have only time to answer that as I conceive it more decent that you should come & receive the Letters you desire; than that I should be the bearer of them to you as you demand, they will remain here to be delivered to you when you call. At the same time I again & again inform you that you must bring me the copies of those Letters which I have so long & so repeatedly desired.

~~[illegible]~~ You knew that I had examined your accounts, that I would not consent to pay the ballance you demanded of the public, because I thought it unjust, that I desired you to produce the vouchers wch might clear up what appeared to me on that examination to be erroneous. Yet instead of doing this, you have the decency to demand that your accts may be examined, & to complain of injustice in this not being complyd with. You surely must know

know that the copies of your vouchers compared before me with the originals was the easiest & obvious way of doing what you were desired. You will besides remember that your excuse at first was that you should be obliged to go to Nantes for many of the vouchers required. You have long complained that your not having an order for the payment of your drafts on Mr Grand prevented you from attending your private business at Nantes to your great injury yet at that very time you knew that what prevented the settlement of your acct was yr not giving in the vouchers desired. And tho' without that settlement my Colleagues have long since paid you the full ballance you demanded with the addition of 1727½ Livres for wch no acct is rendered, yet your affairs which pressed so much before have not yet called you to Nantes. If you think that instead of doing what you are desired in order to acct distinctly for the expenditure of the public

money that you have taken out your Bankers
hands, these ingenious devices to evade it will
do you either honor or profit advantage, you are
of a very different opinion from me

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your most obed^t Ble Servant

(No 214)

A. Lee
to
Jona. Williams

~~to~~

Augt 5. 1778
(~~No date~~)

Letter to Mr Williams

(Dr. Brother.

August 5th. 1778

Robert Morris Esqr. has written to me that he has authorized Mr. Ross to settle the affairs of his late Brother Mr. Thos. Morris, which authority I presume may be sufficient to entitle Mr. Ross to receive the papers of the late Mr. Morris that relate to his private concerns which I left in Dr. Franklin's Custody locked up, & of which you have the key. I have inclosed a letter to Dr. Franklin desiring him to deliver those papers to Mr. Ross if he thinks the authority he has is sufficient to warrant such delivery in which case you will please to let the Doctor have the key.

Those, of the papers that relate to the Public business, the Commissioners will no doubt keep, & I shall be obliged to you for taking care of for me any letters written by myself that may be found among Mr. Morris's papers.

I am My Dr. Brother most
Affect. W. Lee

To the Honourable
Arthur Lee Esqr.
at Chaillot near Paris.

P.S. you will act with the letters relative to Mr. Morris's papers, as you find requisite. We are tolerably well & send our Love.

Dr. Br.

5 Aug.t] I rec.d Mr. Lewis's & Mr. Morris's letters that you directed for me. It seems as if Mr. M. had not rec.d either Mr. R.'s accounts or mine of what passed relative to his late Brothers papers tho' as I mentiond before I wrote to him the 28th of Feb. covering a copy of what I wrote to him from Nantes which was sent by Mr. Simeon Deane who had arrived at Congress 20 daies before the date of Mr. Morris's letter, & it appears that Mr. M. was at C. because he signed the Com.ee letter to me.

I hope the price is stipulated for what is to be shipped from Nantes otherwise a charte blanche is given where it by no means ought to be trusted. When last at N. that very house inadvertently let out, that there was then in store a considerable quantity of fusils, that only cost 16 Livres pr. piece, some of which had been before shipped & charged at 22 Livres.

I presume it has been attended to, that what is shipped is positively ordered to be insured, if this is not done the State cannot be charged in case of Loss. It certainly will be advisable to order T. L. to inspect all the goods that are shipped, if Capt. Le M. cannot attend that business, & to take a duplicate copy of the Invoice & bills of Lading for every parcel that is shipped, to be transmitted immediately to you. Duplicate Copies of the agreement I conceive sh.d be sent to the State, to prevent the inconvenience which Congress has experienced of being dunned for payment & in some cases actually paying for things that had been before paid for in F. An instance you might have seen in Mr. Lewis's letter & you know of others. You probably do not now see the English papers therefore will say The Com.rs arrived in the Delaware the 6th of June J. — ne & Eden have had a high quarrel The first left his associates & went

into the Country — he first send a Mr. Ferguson to Congress, whose negotiation was not successful, he then sent, (the papers say) Mr. Robert Morris to Congress, whose negotiation was not more successful than Mr. F. n's. — [illegible] then returnd to P.ª & went with the rest to N. Y. — while he was out on this business, the Jersey papers, advertised a reward for finding one of the British Com.rs that was said to be Lost.

Kniphausen is not returnd, but a Hanoverian Officer. a 74 Gun Ship of Byrons squadron is returnd very greatly damaged in a Violent Storm on the Banks of Newfoundland, which they suppose has greatly injur'd the rest of the fleet, as this ship saw none of them after it. Ad. Keppel Ship, the Victory, has also sufferd greatly — so much for Twitchers Navy. There is not a word of Truth, as I suspected, in the report of a Truce between the E. & K. of P. — the War still goes on with its common violences & Depredations. The K. & P. Henry are both in Bohemia. The Austrians some of them in Saxony & Silesia. At Zittau they took 200000 florins contribution, great quantity of Hay — & all the goods of every kind that was to be found in ye Warehouses & shops, which were carried off. from thence they plunderd Old Huttons seat the Herenhausens, of 20000 florins & all their goods, this is true. I do not hear of the Prussians plundering but no doubt they follow the example. Ye Vienna gazette Extraordinary of 29th Ult.º among other skirmishes, mentions one on ye 23.d between Rohnitz & Jessena which rather appears to me an engagement of 15 or 20,000 Men on each side. It seems as if the Prussians made a formal attack on the Austrian posts, in which the former were successful, for the latter seem to boast of their not being entirely destroyed. They say they cant tell their loss, tho ye engagem.t was 6 days before the Gazette is dated & the distance fr.º ye express in common to Vienna is ab.t 40 or 45 hours.

(No 216)

No date Passy Aug. 5. 1778

Mr Williams presents his Compliments to Mr Lee and requests him to return him by the Bearer the original Letters from Mr Dean to Mr Williams.

Mr Williams has accidentaly mislaid Mr Lee's last note, but if he will please to send the Extracts Mr Williams gave in to the Comm.rs he shall be welcome to see the whole of the Letters there refered to. —

Mr W will return the Extracts directly.

Passy Tuesday morn.

(No 216) Jona. Williams
to
A. Lee.
(No date)

J. Williams

a Monsieur
Monsieur Lee
a Chaillot

(No 311)

Sir — Passy Aug 6. 1778. —

Please to deliver to the Bearer the Letters from Mr Deane to me which are in your possession. —

I am Sir Your most humble Servt J. Williams

The Hon. Arthur Lee Esq.

(No. 311) Jona.n Williams
to
Arthur Lee
(5 Augt. 1778.)

A Monsieur
Monsieur Lee

J. Williams

Sir — (No 215) Passy Augt 5. 1778.

I sent my Servant with a Note to you this morning as I have before repeatedly done, desiring you to send me my Letters. He tells me you answered that I must come my self. —

These Letters Sir, are my property. I lent them to Mr Adams for his perusal; how they came into your Hands I am yet to learn; but I have an undoubted Right to demand them immediately, which I again do by the Bearer. It neither Suits my convenience or inclination to come to your House, I have no objection to see you any where else.

I am Sir
your most humble Servt

The Hon. Arthur Lee Esqr.

Jon Williams

J. Williams

a monsieur
Monsieur Lee
Chaillot

(No 215)

Jona.n Williams
to
Arthur Lee
—
(5 Aug.t 1778.)

Sir. — (No 213) Passy Aug^d 5. 1778. —

If your Message by the Return of my Servant had been, less concise & more explicit, I should perhaps have better understood it. — I will directly give the Papers you desire, to be copied, and as soon as they are done, I will give them in to the Commissioners. — I suppose you do not mean to keep my Letters as a security for obtaining the Copies, & that my promise will be received as sufficient; if so, you will please to put them in your Pocket when you come again to Passy, & there I will receive them —

I have the honour to be
Sir Your most obed^t Servant
Jon^a Williams J

The Hon. Arthur Lee Esqr.

Jona.ⁿ Williams
to
Arthur Lee

(No 213)

(8 Augt. 1778.)

Williams about
his Letters

Monsieur
Monsieur Lee
Chaillot

(No 212) No 1

...n presents his Compliments to Mr Lee, and
... to return him by the Bearer the original
... Mr Dean to Mr Williams.
...ams has accidently mislaid Mr Lee's last Note, but
...ill please to send the Extracts Mr Williams gave in
... Commrs he shall be welcome to see the whole of
Letters then referred to.
Mr W will return the Extracts directly

Passy Tuesday Morn.

A Hon. Monr Lee Chaillot

Passy Augt 5th 1778.

Sir

Please to deliver to the Bearer the Letters from Mr
Dean to me which are in your possession.

I am Sir
your most humble Servt

J Williams Jr

The Hon. Arthur Lee Esqr

No 2

Sir

Passy. Augt 5th 1778.

I sent my servant with a Note to you this Morning
as I have before repeatedly done, desiring you to send me
my Letters. He tells me you answered that I must come myself.
These Letters, Sir, are my property. I lent them to Mr
Adams for his perusal; how they came into your hands
I am yet to learn; but I have an undoubted right to demand
them immediately, which I again do by the bearer. It
neither suits my Convenience or Inclination to come
to your house. I have no objections to see you any where
else.

I am Sir
Your most humble Servt

Jon Williams

The Hon. Arthur Lee Esqr

78

(No. 212)

Passy. Aug.

Sir

If your message by the return of my ...
been, less concise & more explicit, I should perhaps ...
understood it. — I will directly give you the papers ...
desire to be copied, & as soon as they are done I will ...
them in to the Commissioners. — I suppose you do not ...
to keep my Letters as a security for obtaining the Copies &
that my promises will be received as sufficient, if so, you
will please to put them in your pocket when you come
again to Passy, & then I will receive them.

I have the honor to be
Sir your most obed. Serv.

The Hon. Arthur Lee Esq.

Jon. Williams

(Copy Triplicate)

Attest

H. Fordyce

Jona. Williams
to
A. Lee
(5 Aug. 1778.)

(No 217)

Hon Gentlemen. Passy Augt 6. 1778.

In the Extracts from Mr Deans Letters to me, which I had the honour to give in to you some time since, I referd to the whole Letters of the following Dates, June 27. July 19. July 28. augt 1 augt 7 & Novr 15 all in 1777. I have now the honour to inclose Copies of the whole of these Letters, & shall be happy if they are of any use to you. I propose to sett off for Nantes tomorrow or next day, unless your Commands should require my longer Stay.

I have the Honour to be
with the greatest Respect
Hon Gentlemen your most obedt Servt
Jon Williams.

The Hon. The Ministers Plenipotentiary of the United States.

read the 8th
A Lee

(No 217)

Jona. Williams
to
Hon: Comrs. U.S.
(6 Augt. 1778.)

Sir. — (No 218) Passy 6 Augt. 1778. —

If my Letters appear to you uncivil your own Recollection must inform you of the Cause.

Whatever you may think of the Decency of my Demand to have my Property returned to me, I conceive that Justice requires that Property to be replaced from whence it was taken. If I had delivered ~~them~~ the Letters at your House, I should of course expect to find ~~them~~ there; But I never delivered them to you at all.

The Difficulty I find in getting again a few Letters which by some means or other are in your Hands, shows me the Situation I should have been in if you had also possession of my original Vouchers. I have no sort of Objection to have all these Vouchers copied if the Commissioners please to order any person to do it; but I do not conceive myself to be Mr Lee's Clerk.

My affairs do really require my Return and

and if I had^knew^ my Letters I should have gone some time since, unless the Commissioners had required my Stay. — The Charge of trying to evade the Examination of my accts, it is beneath me to answer: I am sure the Commissioners don't think so, & your private opinion I am very indifferent about.

Your motives to do justice to the Public & discharge your Duty I shall ever be ready to satisfy. The only way to do this, it appears to me is a fair impartial Examination of my accts, in the manner I pointed out, which I am ready to attend whenever the Commissioners shall order. I shall also deliver them the Letters you mention, for it is to them only, or to some person deputed by them, that I am in this Country accountable for anything that relates to the american Public. You have blamed me for paying attention to the orders of Mr Dean — you must surely see the same impropriety in my observing yours. —

In answer to your postscript, I have only to say that had the same treatment of me which

commanded

my Respect been continued, the Harmony which subsisted between us should not have been interrupted; but separate from the Rank your Post gives you, I apprehend Mr Lee to be a Gentleman equal to myself and entitled in return to such Treatment as he thinks proper to give. In this View I dont apprehend I have exceeded the proper Bounds, if you do, it must be because you either do not recollect every circumstance, or imagine I have not the feelings of a Man. ——

Upon the whole Sir I desire to have my property returned, & then to cease having anything to do with you in the way of Business as an Individual To the Commissioners I shall pay all the respectfull attention their important post & my Duty to the Public require.

I have the honor to be

Sir Your most obed Servt

J Williams Jr

(No 218) Jonathan Williams.

to

(6 Augt 1778.)

J. Williams

(No 219) Aug: the 7: 1778.

Dear Sir

I am desired by our Friend E. to inform you he has left Town for a few days upon a little business — We have now pretty certain Acct. that the French West India fleet would sail about the 25th June — a Jamaica Packet is arrived sailed the 20 & brings these accounts — You will have got the Gazzette acct. of the Action between the two fleets — Great Pains are taken here to make the most of it; but depend there is a great deal of dissatisfaction the expectations of People were wound up to a great height — one half at least of French were to be Brot: in — the not bringing in any is considered as next to a Defeat. — I am informed Kep. had a 42 lib shot in his Mainmast & upon enquiring whether it would take longest to splice or put in a new one & being told the former would take only four days — the latter 10. the former is prefered — It is certainly said he will be out again in a few days — 10 sail of East India fleet are arrived — this puts every body in Spirits — 4 or 5 more are expected — The numbers of letters of Marque taking out are astonishing (I mean agst. the French) — In the course of a Month the Channel will be full. — It is said 4 or 5 more East India Men are expected — The Ville de Paris has great Credit for the conduct of her People during the late Engagement even among the Ministerial Seamen Some disagreeable Accounts

have been received respecting Byron - one of the fleet is put back - 5 others are undoubtedly dismasted - It is greatly feared the rest are lost or rendered unserviceable

Yours

Jennings

Mr. Pringle
care of A. Lee Esq.

(No 219)

E. Jennings
to Jno. Pringle
A Lee
Aug 7th 1778

Received of Mr Lee the Sum of 48th of
wch I promise payment.

Livres 48 - s. Paris the 8th Aug: 1778.

Margum

Doit Compte courrant des Etats unis par Messieurs [...]

1778			
Juin	30	Pour solde de lancien Compte	697434. 4
Juillet	1er	Mandat de J. Williams du 25 7bre ordre Mr. Franklin . .	891. 10
	3	Accept.n de Mr. Franklin du 18 May, aux traittes de H.y Laurens de York Town a 30 J.rs de vue ord: Lalierre du 6 9bre 900 / 14 d.o 573	1473.
	3	Accept.n de Mr. Francklin du 5 Juin a traitte de H.y Laurens du 14 9bre a 30 Jours de vue	1030.
	3	payé a Mme. de Coalin les 6 derniers Mois de la Maison de Mr. Dean	3600.
	16	Mandat de Messrs. Franklin Lee & Adams du 16 Juillet . .	720.
	17	Payé a Poussin Tapissier, pour lachat des Meubles quil louoit cy devant a Mr. Deane suivant le compte a ce Sujet	4294.
	21	Mandat de Mrs. Franklin Lee & Adams du 21 courant, ord Niles	4933.
	28	Mandat de Mrs. Francklin Lee & adams du 29 d.o, au Cap.e Barnes	2108. 15
	30	Acceptation de Mrs. Francklin du 26 Juillet a une traitte de H.y Laurens du 17 9bre a 30 Jours de vue	900.
Aoust	4	Mandat de Mrs. Franklin Lee & adams du 4 Aoust ord: Pollen 439 / ord: Welsh 192 / ord Grenall 192	823
	6	Acceptation de Mr. Franklin du 27 Juin, a traitte de H.y Laurens du 7 9bre a 30 Jours de vue	900.
	6	Payé a Mr. Adams sur son ordre	2400.
	7	Payé a Mr. Franklin, sur reçu	4800.
	7	Payé a Mr. Arthur Lee, sur reçu - - - - -	4800.
		Commission a ½ p% sur £ 60172. 18. 6	300. 17
		Ports de Lettres, Paquets, Commissionaires &c.a	203. 11
		Pour Solde il revient a ces Messieurs	25995. 5. 6
			£ 757607. 2. 6

Ainsi arreté double sauf Erreur

Paris le 8 Aoust

Grand

Franklin Lee & Adams chez F. Grand Avoir

Juillet 1. Ces Messieurs aiant été debités dans deux differents Comptes, de lachat fait a L'Orient des 31 Affuts je les credite d'autant dans celui cy, afin qu'ils ne soient debités qu'une seule fois du Montant de cet Achat de | 5607. 2. 6

20 Pour la Voiture de Mr. Dean que le Scellier s'etoit engagé a reprendre pour 2000.# & dont je me suis chargé | 2000.

Reçus de ces Messieurs . . . . | 750000.

Note of Additional Sums paid out of the publick money for Mr Deane

16 April 1778 for his Wheelwright	168
1st May hire of his Horses	128
Remainder of his Acct.	278
7th Do Remainder of a Servant's Acct.	417—1
Do to another Servant	244.16
Sadlers Acct.	6
13th July Traiteur's Acct.	12,11
Blacksmith's Acct.	80,10

£ 757607. 2. 6

6

6

urs ou Ommissions

1778

(22)

No. 4.

11th Decr 1779. Grand's Acct.

2400
4800
2400
2400
22519, 5, 6
2400,
4000
2400
2400
4000
4000
2400
2400
4800 Aug. 7th 1778
65719, 5, 6

Dear Sir, Philadelphia 10th Augt 1778

I agree entirely with you concer-
ning the importance of the confederation [illegible]
have never failed to press it. Ten States have
ratified — Jersey, Delaware, & Maryland have
not, and only one of them, Maryland, has adjour-
ned until November, so that the union [illegible]
under the Confederation cannot [illegible]
at the time proposed by the Confederacy. The
inclosed paper contains all the news we have,
except that it is well reported that Lord Howe
being reinforced by 4 Ships of the line [illegible]
from N: York on Thursday last with his whole
force to attack the French Squadron now at
Rhode Island — Howe has a greater number
of Ships, but Count D'Estaing has heavier
Metal — The attack by [illegible] was to
be made this day on the enemy at R: Island
where they have 5500 men strongly posted
and 3 or 4 frigates — Our force will be about
14000 men besides the Squadron. Success
seems certain if Ld Howe does not get up
in time to prevent it. The Count D'Estaing
is an Officer of approved merit, and his
Ships very strong in every respect, so that
I think he will check the British inso-
lence on the Sea as we have already
done on the land — No news from Europe on
the 10th of June, nor do I believe G. Britain
means to resent the proceedings of France

It seems to be a contest between the two Nations which shall be last in declaring War — some advantages to accrue from Treaties is the cause of this — but it matters little, since we so properly experience the aid of France. For it is certain this Squadron is to act with and for us so long as the enemy by continuing here renders it necessary. There is great probability that the Emperor of Germany & the King of Prussia will fall out about the Bavarian dominions — Theirs will be a battle of Giants, each party having 300,000 men, the best disciplined Troops in the world. France has taken measures to avoid engaging in this quarrel, that her whole force may be employed against England —

The design against Detroit is abandoned for the present and a force will be sent into the Indian Country to chastise them [illegible] [illegible] wish that the wisdom of [illegible] may be so far exerted [illegible] employed to regulate our finances, to stop further credits [illegible] about our back lands, and to propose a plan of our public Commerce. If it succeeds with us, I believe it will be the first instance that has ever happened of the kind. But many there are hungry devoured from such Trade. What [illegible] necessity impelled, [illegible] [illegible] will furnish [illegible] of all kinds, I incline to think [illegible] will [illegible] it must be drawn from our commercial Trade. Remember me to Mr. [illegible] — I am yours [illegible] very sincerely

Richard Henry Lee

Versailles le 10. Aoust 1778.

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, la Lettre que vous m'avés fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 7. de ce mois relativement à l'Instance pendante au Conseil entre les Srs Scott et Delon, et les Srs Papillon et Larlois. Cette affaire a éprouvé jusqu'ici des retardemens, parcequ'elle est très volumineuse et extrêmement compliquée, mais je viens de prendre le parti de la renvoyer au Bureau du Commerce où elle sera bientôt jugée définitivement.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec une parfaite considération, Monsieur, Votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur.

De Sartine

M. Artur Lée

White plains Aug. 10. 1778.

Dear Sir,

A few days ago I received your favor of the 26th ult°, inclosing one from Col° Spotswood, for which I thank you. — The reputation which this Gentn had acquired, of being an attentive Officer and good disciplinarian, was justly founded; and I considered his leaving the Army a loss to the Service. — The supposed death of his Brother, it is natural to believe, had a painful influence upon his mind — but he had long before been very uneasy in his situation, on acct of the determination in the case between him and Col° McClanahan (and I am persuadé was only prevented from quitting the line in consequence, thro' my means) —

My regard for Col° Spotswood, and the opinion I entertain of him as an Officer, would induce me to interest myself in his favor, wherever I could with propriety — In the present instance however I cannot, because I think it wd do an injury to the Officers of the Virga line (if not to those of the line at large) and because I am convinced his promotion would excite infinite discontents and produce many resignations.

When

When he left Camp in the Month of October, he made a surrender of his Commission to me according to the then prevailing custom. — This was accepted — and a new arrangement took place among the field Officers. — After this I could not suppose him to continue in the line — and to attempt to recall the rise of the Officers, to give him a place again, would be to attempt an impossibility. — No reasoning upon the subject would be sufficient to get them to consent to it. —

With respect to the report of the Board of General Officers to which you allude ~~[illegible]~~ you will excuse me when I say, in my opinion, it will not apply. — The case there was, that sundry inferior Officers, or juniors of the same Rank, from local circumstances, and the opportunities of application, obtained from the Committees, or Councils of the State in whom the power of appointing Officers to the Army for 1777 was vested, new Commissions prior in date to those granted afterwards to their Seniors — and in consequence claimed a right to rank before them. — The Board determined their claims unjust and, that the Rank which the Officers immediately held before their new Commissions should govern, as it did not appear that the Councils intended to supercede the Senior Officers — But here there had been no interruption or relinquishment of the

ori

right to rank by resignation — surrender of Commission — or any other act of the Parties. — Nor could I ever think, that Col.o Spotswood had cause to complain of the decision on the point in question between him and Col.o McClanahan. — It was founded on the practice, which had commonly prevailed — I believe universally, in like cases — viz — that when state Officers became Continental they should rank, with respect to each other, according to their state precedence. — This principle appeared to be just, and I am certain, was the only one that could be adopted to give general satisfaction. — As many of our Regiments in the first instance, and particularly those from Virginia, were raised by the States without any order by Congress, a contrary rule would have involved great inconveniencies — & would have proved an effectual bar to many valuable Officers coming into Service. —

I have not the most distant suspicion that Col.o Spotswood is influenced in his wishes, upon the present occasion, in the smallest degree by any considerations arising from the half pay establishment — I am convinced that he is not — Nor do I believe that any Officer will impute a matter of the sort to him — or object to his being reintroduced into the line from motives of personal dislike — they will oppose it as an injury to their rights.

I

86

I thank you much for your
congratulations. — The prospect we have
before us is certainly pleasing, and such
as promises a glorious and happy issue
to all our struggles. — Success in the intend
ed enterprize against Rhode Island, wd.
operate powerfully, I should suppose, upon
the minds of the British Nation, and bring
matters to a speedy conclusion. — I wait
impatiently to hear from thence. —

I am Dr Sir
Yr most Obedt H Ser
G. Washington

G. W.
Aug 10. 1778

78

To the Honourable Ministers Plenipotentiarys of the United States of America at the Court of France — residents at Passy

Honourable Gentlemen

My Father in law has just now communicated me the Hon.ble Mr. Lee's Letter of the 4 Instant, which he received Yesterday, together with sundry extracts which would greatly alarm me, was not I conscious of my Innocence — I will not take too much upon those precious moments which you so laudably dedicate to your Country, to refute the false accusations contained in the anonimous Letter, but beg you would judge whether or not a Merchant happy in his situation in life & free from any kind of concern in Vessells as is my Father would for

the

for the sake of others send his only Son as a Spy in so well an administered a Kingdom as is France And whether it is probable, that I who have my Establishments here, my Wife, Child and Relations would sacrifice my all to give advices to People who are almost Strangers to me, as I was sent very Young to School in England, and at my return staid but a very short time at Guernsey before I came here, where I have now been three Years — as to Jersey I have laid there one night by stress of Weather & hardly know any body in that Island — Is it possible that I should have carried on the treachery I am accused of, so long unpunished — is it not natural that if I found success in this dirty business that my Relations aught to have reaped the benefit whereas none of them have

armed

[Fath]er in law's nomination to the Agentcy (altho' he never asked it) has created him a number of deceitfull Ennemies who through the vilest Jealousy have since constantly endeavoured to hurt him, but his well established reputation & his unstained upright Character have set him above all their Machinations and having none to find but the Place of my birth that one has been attended to. —

The Continual hurry of Businiss & above all my Father in law's Rheumatism hinders my setting off for Paris, nevertheless I would do imediately was I persuaded that it might help to set things in their true light. if you indulge me with an answer be obliging enough to give me your much valued opinion & if so I will gladly & instantly take Horse to undergo any examination & if culpable ask to be dealt with with the utmost severity

but

of any Privations as you may yourselves learn if you would be indulgent enough to make inqui-ries — The Chevaillier de la Poterie & the Chevaillier de Villevocque arrived Yesterday from thence & gone of this morning for Paris they have been recom-mended to you by Mr Schweighauser & are very proper Persons to question on that subject. —

You know Honourable Gentlemen what it is to be falsely accused & that at my time of life a stain on ones Reputation is of the greatest consequence, I must then earnestly entreat you to discover me the author of that anonimous Letter, (wch to my sorrow has been so easily believed by Monsieur Le Ray de Chaumont,) as I am determined not to leave one stone unturned 'till I have found the inventor of such Calumnies for neither my life or fortune will ever put a stop to my inquiries. —

My Worthy Father
[Turn] in law

but if on the contrary I shall insist upon a pu-
-blick Reparation of Honour from the Wretch
who has so scandalously slandered mine, fully
persuaded how ready you are to lend your help-
-ing hand to injured Innocence. —

I have the honor to be with the utmost
veneration & respect

Honourable Gentlemen

Your most humble most obedient
most devoted Servant
Peter Frederick Dobrée

Nantz 11 August 1778 —

Sir.

In answer to the Letter of ye 4. Inst[t] with which You have honoured me, I shall tell you that ye report made you & to his Excellency Doctor Franklin against me & my Son in Law has much affected me, and fill'd me with true indignation These Calumnies can be invented by none but Persons jealous of the Confidence that is reposed in me — My Son in Law is not impeachable & is ready to justify himself every where.

It is his uprightness, his honesty, & that of his Father & Family according to all y[e] informations I have taken before his Mariage, that have induced me to give him my Daughter, and to take him into Partnership, and I have found that He has not Contradicted this Character.

His Father M[r] Thomas Dobree living effectually at Guernesey is descended from a french Family, Comes every year in France and fits out no Vessels, and has no share in any, and is the Man who is y[e] Greatest friend to the French & American,

He has three Uncles, two are Clergyman and the other lives in the Country and has intirely left of Business.

Yesterday arrived here 3 french Gentlemen from thence, the Chevalier De la Pouerie, and the Chevalier Villevoyae with another & they sett off this morning for Paris. I have taken ye Liberty to give them a Letter of recomendation for ye Honourable Ministers Plenipotentiary and I doubt not that if you will be kind enough to question them, but that they will in every thing Confirm the above.

We know nothing my Son in Law or me of ye Correspondence carried on between Granville & Jerzey neither do we know one single Person at that Port, if there is one, it is one more false imputation that they put upon us & Certainly must be attributed to others, for there have been even from the beginning some of these informers, I was ye first that receiv'd & dispatch'd a Vessell for your States, & altho I Had made it french Property, She was so well discribed to ye English by their Spyes, that She was notwithstanding Stop'd & seized in Ireland. — We Shall do all we Can in the World to discover the Authors of such Correspondence if ever possible

I am Surpriz'd that M. de Baumont, can so Easily

believe reports, which require that one should look priorly into the Caracter of ye accused & the accusers, and the Consequence which he derives that a man must be Culpable because he has relations on the Enemy's hand, is certainly by no means just, and would be detrimentale to all Nations.

In ye anonimous Letter there are evident falshoods in saying that my Son in Law had two Brothers in Guernezey, whereas he never had any — they Say that I do not understand English, I know enough to deal & explain my self with every body, and have corresponded in that Tongue long before I knew Mr Dobie

These are proofs that the adviser is badly informd, and that he had the malicious Aim to represent me as incapable, & when he adds that my Son in Law has no attachment to the Nation this is still a calumnious imputation for having his Wife, Child, & his Establishment here with a much more Numerous family than at Guernezey. it canot be believed, that he would Sacrifice all this to favour People with which, him nor his family have not any interest.

I Cannot than think, but that all these accusations have been Sought for in View of

of which I leave you ye Explication
The Informer can it is true have no
Personal Concern, but he can have a
Prompter who does not Anxe to be Known
In Knowing One, I might find out the
other. be then Obliging enough to
Make inquiries — finally Mr Lee your
Nephew Knows all our proceedings, & the Sentiments
of our house, & can give you a Just account
of our dealings

I shall conclude with my Sincere thanks
for your Convincing proof of friendship
in Communicating me this report, and
Assure You of ye high Consideration
& Respect with which I am

Sir

Your most obedient
humble Servant
J. D^l. Schweighauser

Nantes 11. aug 1778.

On Dobrée's Accusation.

Arthur Lee Esqr.   Bilbao the 12th A[illegible]

Honoured Sir

We beg leave to refer you to what had the pleasure of saluting you with on the 5th Instant & as continue since deprived of your Esteemed favours have still the very great mortification of informing you [illegible] that no Vessell appearing from America, we are depriv[ed] of an opportunity of shipping off soon a very great par[t] of the goods that are ready packt upon the old plan, [&] we hear that Two Schooners from Boston have [been] arrived at Burdeaux & as probably those may be [at] your dispositions we leave it to your prudent consid[eration] wether it would not be worth while to dest[ine one of] them to this port to take in a light load of [the goods] now under our care, & if not to give orders to [Bourdeaux] to freight one of them, about which shall be Expecting your answer while we most cordially Subscribe

Honoured Sir

Your mt. affect. obt. hble. Servts.

Joseph Gardoqui & Sons

(No 247)

My dear Brother, Menokin August 12. 1778.

Before you receive this, my Letter by Mr Griffin will have informed you, that I have duely Recd your Letters by post. I dont write by the post, as that at Hobbs's Hole, which is the only convenient one to me, goes round by Wmsburg, & woud be an age getting to you. Mr Griffin is a worthy man, an intimacy with him, is I think worth cultivating. You are well acquainted with Mr Smith, 167 a IX is reckoned here, very 94 a XXV & 258 b XXXIII; in 284 a X, 256 a XXVI 385 b XX. however I dare say, 187 b IX will 216 a XX with 426 b XXVIII, 40 b XXXIV the 218 b III; & such a 82 b XXXI may be 233 a XVIII 415 a XVI— Was H— r really charged with a message from the King of France? if he was, & without credentials, I think it a most unprecedented transaction: if he was not, he ought to be imprisoned for his impudent attempt, to impose upon Congress. but by Mons Girards appointing him Agent, I suppose he must have been properly authorised to Act as he did. for surely Monsr Girard woud not so openly affront America, by promoting a man, who not only had abused his own Master but had so grossly affended Congress. I shoud like to have this matter cleard up. I am sorry D— r shoud be the 138 b XXVIII of those 425 b XIIo, the great 240 b V of your 87 a XXII 126 b Xo his 248 b XIII in a great measure, and 197 a I of N. York is a 64 b XX 145 a XXXIV to our 72 a VII. I think D. has a 309 a XXVII for the 134 a VI, & if some 270 a XXXVIII of the 207 b IX 282 b VIII of 115 b XXXVIII was laid open to him, he probably woud act otherways. however I know a good deal of 80 b XI is necessary. If I was with you, the 114 a XXIX 83 b II us, woud 114 b II me 27 b XIII to do 346 a XXXVI.
I hope there are good men enough with you to prevent wickedness from being either triumphant, tho they may sometimes

No 192

be surprised by it. I am No 247 heartily tired of the knavery & stupidity of the generality of mankind, as you can be, but it is our duty to stem the torrent, as much as we can & to do all the services in our power to our Country & our friends. the consciousness of having done so, will be greatest of all rewards. I have very little hopes from the present race they are too much infected with the vices of Britain, but by proper regulations to enlarge the understandings & improve the morals, of the rising generation; we may give a fair opportunity to succeeding Patriots, of making their Country flourishing & happy. but this must be the work of Peace. in the mean time, we must struggle with the present degeneracy & prevent as much of its bad effects, as possible. I fear the Count D'Estaing will not be able to effect any thing considerable, which will contribute much to raise the spirits of the English. the utmost efforts should be made to drive the Enemy from N. York, which affords them so fine a harbor in the bowels of the States. Doctor Jones altogether despairs of relieving Col. Tayloe from the debility of mind & body which he at present labors under. he is otherways in good health, eats, drinks & sleeps well; is fond of seeing his friends tho' can hardly speak to be understood. his memory is a good deal affected, & the least degree of joy or sorrow makes a great impression upon his mind. when I come to Congress, I shall bring with me a state of his case, for the advice of Doctor Shippen & other Physicians of Phil^a. You never mention when you intend to return, I shall leave this about the middle of Octr. don't let us contrive to be on the road at the same time. remember me to all friends.

Y^r. ever aff^t. Bro^r & friend. Francis Lightfoot Lee

Hoble. Arthur Lee Esqr.

Sir,

Having learned in conversing with an old Acquaintance of mine from Virginia Capt. Taylor (who speaks with gratitude of ye many civilities testified him on your part) that a Young man of ye name of Bergon has under Colour of being taken in a vessell bound to America, imposed so farr on your friendship as obtain your patronage, as such I beg leave to give you some Information respecting that Young man which by the same Capt. Taylor described to me, is one that does or pretends to speak several Languages about 23 years of age born of Incuollet right in Germany, fair complection & wears an assumed American uniform blue turned up with Red; What I would wish to mention to you on ye above subject is that the said Young man was here in Nantes, in a most distressed situation, when Mr. Jones in Charity cloathed & fed him & he expressing a strong desire to go to America, voluntarily gave him a passage in one of his vessells bound to ye Continent, a Gale of Wind in this bay Obliged the vessell to put into Lisbon & by letters from ye Capt. he was under the necessity of putting this ~~young~~ young man a shore on Acct. of his bad behaviour, & feared least ~~they~~ he might lodge some Information whereby the vessell might be seized — hope you'll Excuse the Intrusion on your Time, but knowing the foregoing

affair thought it part of my Duty to communicate it to ye De-
cision of your Superior Judgment — When Mr. Ford of Vir-
ginia was here he informed me he had communicated to you
some Circumstances relative to Mr. David Ross of Virginia
being in some measure concerned with a party in Counter-
feiting ye Continental Currency — I had ye Honor of ren-
-dering the Country ye Service in taking that party prisoners
with all their Implements, & if by that I can throw any
light on ye matter my Information is at your Command.

Should the multiplicity of your bu-
siness, render it necessary to have a person to write for
you, I make free to Offer you any services that I can
personally render you in that Line, as I've obtained a
sufficient Knowledge of ye French Language since my
residence here, & from my Early asserting ye Cause of
Freedom & opposing Tyrannic Sway exhibited in Vir-
ginia, ye uniformity of Conduct ever since as a friend
to America, may help to dissipate any doubts that may
Occur to you from ye Want of a more Intimate Know[ledge]
of me — my reason for making ye above proposition
is that I shall most likely stay some months longer
in France, being in the mean time in Business & [illegible]
some strong Assurances of a Commission in the

American Service, but till that Period should be happy if I could prove useful to you & ye Cause of America, I am very Respectfully

Sir Your most Obt.
very Hble Servt.
J. Grubb

Nantes 13 Augt. 1778.

P.S. The Aforemd. vessell from Lisbon is safe arriv Virginia — my address is to ye Care of Penet Dacosta freres & Co. a Nantes —

Wilmington August the 19th 1778.

(87)

Sir

I am arrived here these two Days with all the Cavalery, am Expecting the infantry in four, will present my Self with my Corps to the Congress. to pass the Revue to the End of this month, and Join the Enemy immediately after. I Should Have been Very Glad to be Ready Sooner; But I Hope Every Body Shall be persuaded, that it is not the Business of one Day to Rise, and form a corps. However I Heard the Honnourable Congress Don't seems to be much Satisfy'd with my application, I Can't Guess what may be the Reason of it, for I always did all in my power to prove them, that Honnour, and a true Desire of Distinguishing my Self in Deffence of the Liberty was always the only motive which fired my Heart for the Cause of the unitate States. I Do trust my Self Enough in your Knowlege to be in Hopes that you'll be Kind Enough to Support me against the false preventions which might Have been made against me

I am With Respect

Sir

your Most Humble and Obedient Servant

Pulaski

Capt. Bedaugui paymaster of my Legion who will Deliver you my Letter is acquainted with all the particulars of the Legion's Business you may Know any thing from Him.

Hble Colonel Lee Esqr.

The Hon.ble Colonel Lee Esqr

and Member of Congress
at mrs Houges in market Street

Philadelphia

Count Pulaski
1778

Count Pulaski

90

Pulaski [illegible] 13th
August 1778

88

Prince Town August 16th: 1778
(No 248)

Sir

Your directions in regard of the British Seaman shall be punctually and as speedily complied with as the situation of my affairs will admit of. The confused inaccurate Manner in which the Return of Marine Prisoners are made to me are such that I can neither answer for their Numbers nor the precise time when a return can be made —

Lieut.s Barney and Pownal of the Virginia Frigate I readily agree to be exchanged for the Lieut. of Marines and the second Lieut. of the Mermaid — but could wish Captn. Hawker might be detained till further orders, as they offer him in Exchange for a Capn. Robinson taken out of a Flag Boat sent some time last Spring with Provisions for the Prisoners down the Delaware —

I am to observe to you once more that I have no Positive Instructions how to proceed to the Exchange of the French Prisoners. Admiral Gambier is desirous to send them out also — but could not untill I had informed him upon what terms I could receive them —

My Business demands my Attention at Philadelphia I shall be there to Morrow and shall wait on the Committee on Monday — I am Sir

Your most Obedient
Humble Servant

Jno. Beatty
Comd. Gen: Pris.

The Honble.
Richd. Henry Lee Esqr.

Jno. Beatty (No. 15)

(No 248) Aug. 14th 1778

Col. Beatty
Comy. Prisoners

On public Service

1778 &c.

No. 15

Pr Express

The Honble
Richard Henry Lee Esqr.
Philada.

Jno. Beatty
Comy. Pris.

D.r Sir   Pen S L Mr   (No 249)   Caroline Aug.st 16. 1778.

I have your fav.r of the 28.th past and had the others you mention, tho' slow in their Progress, I am the more thankful for these fav.rs, as I know how they Intrude upon the very few hours w.ch relaxation demands; I Intreat you will in future only reserve them for great events, which I will read with Pleasure & not complain when I miss a Letter. (I was astonished at the resolutions of the Commons in fav.r of the Irish. I consider them however as the first fruits of the benefits mankind will receive from Our noble struggle; this & the success of the Duke of Richmond's motion respecting the Toulon Fleet, seem to indicate a Change in administration, Happy for Us they cannot raise L.d Chatham to be in the New.) (A Heavy N.o East Storm on Tuesday last, has greatly injured Our Corn & tobacco & forced down too many of our half ripe Peaches — I expect to hear it has reached the Fleets.) I am

D. Sir Y.r affect.e & ob. Serv.t
Edm.d Pendleton

To

The Honble Richard Henry Lee Esqr.

Phila.

Pendleton
No. 314

~~No 314.~~
(No 249)

1000
3
3000
150
3
1000
6
600

Prises

A Versailles Le 16. aout 1778

Je m'empresse, Messieurs, de repondre aux observations que vous m'avez adressées par la Lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'ecrire le 13 de ce mois, sur le projet d'un reglement pour les Prises et prisonniers des Etats respectifs. Je Crois en avoir rempli l'objet par une Nouvelle redaction des Articles 2 et 14 dont je joins ici un nouveau Texte, avec des Exemplaires des differentes loix qui ont eté publiées en dernier Lieu relativement aux Prises. Au surplus, Je recevrai dans tous les tems, avec plaisir vos representations sur les inconvénients que l'éxécution du Reglement vous feroit appercevoir, et vous pouvez Etre assurés que Sa Majesté sera toujours disposée a procurer aux habitans des Etats unis toutes les facilités compatibles avec l'Intérêt de ses finances et le commerce de ses sujets.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec un sincere attachement, Messieurs, votre très humble et très obeissant Serviteur.

[signature]

Mrs Les Deputés des Etats Unis de L'amerique

Camp at White plains august 17th 1778. (91

Sir!

I received both letters you honored me with dated 15th febr: & 23 march last past, but rather late the first came to hand the 20 may & the Second in June. A long Sickness, the march of the army when I was yet very unwell, & a good deal of Business since my Recovery, have prevented me from answering before now

You are much in the Right, Sir, to think that the change in Political Matters must place your independce beyond all doubt, & far beyond the Power of England to disturb. I heartily rejoyce with you & all true Americans on the occasion. It is to be expected also the Alliance with France & the real assistance the king intends to the States, must needs procure you a Speedy & Lasting Peace.

This Day I wrote to President Laurens in favour of Monr. Le Vicomte de mauroy & Mons.r Le Chevr de fayolles. As it will will be laid before the Supreme Council of the States, I need not to trouble you with the Contents of it. I will only observe to you that I am ordered to do the Same, By Mess.rs Marshall Duke de Broglie & the Count his Brother, and as they expect my answer on that account, I Should be

Col Richd Henry Lee Delegate in Congress.

92

greatly obliged to you, if you would be pleased to let me have the Reasons for or against as the Matter will be debated in Congress, and to be very particular in that Respect

Though I ardently wish Monr de Mauroy's Request be granted, yet I am afraid it will not by reason of a Letter he wrote, as I understood, to Congress, not very acceptable. If he is refused on that account I should be glad to have it mentioned, because I think His Noble Protectors are unaquainted with this piece of bad Policy of his.

I have the Honour to be with great respect and Esteem

Dear Sir

Your most obedient & very humble Servant
The Baron de Kalb

The Honorable

Richard Henry Lee Esqr.
Delegate in Congress from the
State of Virginia

Philadelphia

Baron Kalb
1778

(N° 220) Aug 17 - 1778

Je soussigné officier retiré à la suitte de cette place, certifie que le S.r Mannberger marchand fourbisseur de cette ville m'a remis ce jourd'hui la quantité de six cents sabres tant pour les grenadiers que pour l'artillerie pour le service des états unis de l'amérique, lesquels après les avoir examinés et confronté avec le modèle de M. le Capitaine le Maire cacheté de ses armes et le cachet dud. S. Mannberger, j'ai reconnu être de bon aloi et conforme bien conditionés et vu emballer dans six caisses de chacune cent sabres lesquelles six caisses ont été remises à M.rs Richard et Clément pour être envoyées à Orléans pour le compte des d.ttes Colonies de l'amérique, le présent pour servir et valoir ainsi que de raison, fait à Strasbourg le 17.e Aout 1778.

Signé Marcellin

Je soussigné officier retiré à la suite de cette place certifie que le S.r Mannberger marchand de cette ville m'a remis ce jourd'hui la quantité de sept cent sabres dont trois cens pour Grenadiers et quatre cents pour l'artillerie pour le service des états unis de l'amérique, après les avoir examinés et confrontés

avec les modèles de M. le Capitaine le Maire cachetés de ses armes, et le cachet du S.r Mannberger, jai reconu être d'un bon aloy, et conforme bien conditioné et vû emballes dans sept caisses pour être remises à M.rs Richard et Clément pour être envoyé à Orléans pour le compte des dittes Colonies de l'amérique, le présent pour servir et valloir ainsi que de raison, fait à Strasbourg le 3. 7.bre 1778.

Marcellin

Je soussigné officier retiré à la suite de cette place certifie que le S.r Mannberger marchand fourbisseur de cette ville ma remis, ce jourdhui la quantité de huit cents vingt sabres, dont trois cents vingt pour dragons deux cents pour Grenadiers, et trois cents pour l'artillerie pour le service des états unis de l'amérique, après les avoir bien examinés et confrontés avec les modèles de M.r le Capitaine le Maire, cachetés du cachet de ses armes et le cachet dud.t S.r Mannberger jai reconnu être d'un bon aloy et conformes, bien conditionés et vû emballes dans treize caisses pour être remises à M.rs

Richard et Clément pour être envoyées a orléans pour le compte desdittes Colonies de l'amérique le présent pour servir et valloir ainsi que de raison fait à Strabourg le 17. 7bre 1778.

Marcellin

Je soussigné officier retiré à la suite de cette place certifie que M. Mannberger marchand fourbisseur de cette ville ma remis ce jourdhui la quantité de quatre cents quatre vingt trois sabres, dont deux cents quatre vingt un pour dragon y compris le modèle et deux cents un pour l'artillerie y compris le modèle et le model des Grenadiers, pour le service des états unis de l'amérique, après les avoir bien examinés et confrontés avec les dts. modèles de M. le Capitaine le Maire cacheté du cachet de ses armes et du cachet du S. Mannberger, j'ai reconnu être d'un bon aloy et conformes bien conditionés et vu emballer dans neuf caisses pour être remises à Mrs. Richard et Clément pour être envoyées à orléans pour le compte desdittes Colonies de l'Amérique le présent pour servir et valoir ainsi que de raison, à Strasbourg le 8. 7bre 1778.

Marcellin

Marcellin, 17th Aug, 3 & 17th Septr 1778
Richard & Clement - 10th Oct. 1778.

N° 220

Nous soussignés certifions, que Mr. Marcellin nous a fait remettre par le Sr. Mainberger les trente cinq Caisses emballées, qui doivent contenir les deux milles six cents sabres pour les troupes des états unis de D'amérique, et que nous avons fait passer les dittes 35 Caisses à Orléans à la disposition de Mr. le Maire Capitaine dans les dragons de Virginie au service des dits états d'amérique, fait à Strasbourg le 10. octobre 1778.

Reichard et Clement

fourni aux Etats unies de L'amerique Septentrional par Mannberger Marchand fourbisseur à Strasbourg.

En trois Epoques.

2002	Sabres D'Infanterie de Virginie sans lames à 8. 2. ...	16216 - 4.
601.	Sabres de Dragons de Virginie sans lames à 11 ...	6611
		£. 22827 - 4.

Reçu à Compte par Mr Grand Banquier En trois Epoques

1me	la somme de ...	4860
2me	la somme de ...	5670
3me	celle de	12297
		£. 22827

Sur cette Somme Mrs Richard et Clement Negt. de Strasbourg m'ont fait une deduction de 143. 8. pour frais de transport de l'argent, provisions et ports de lettres ; que je me flatte d'en obtenir le Remboursement.

Nantes August 18th 1778

Dear Sir

Agreeable to my promise I have now to inform you that the Owners of the Vessel on board of which I intend to embark for Carolina acquaint me, that she will be certainly ready for Sea in about a fortnight. I have only to add that I shall be happy to render myself serviceable to you in America and you may depend upon my care and attention to whatever commands or despatches you may be pleased to entrust to

Dear Sir

Your most Obedt Servt.

John Lloyd

I received under cover by Mr Williams a packet directed to Mr Schweighauser wch I immediately sent to him. The address appearing to be your writing is the reason of my not opening it

The Hon.ble The Plenipotentiarys
of the American United States

Hon.ble Gentlemen

I did my self the honour to address You, on the 16th & 23d Ult.o – Not on business of my own, but that which regards the United States, and consistent with the common rule of regularity, claimed an Answer long since.

Mr. Delavile, holder of Mr Cronio's bills, applyed to me again by letter, on last Saturday. & the bills being drawn, on Public Account, shall be glade to know what Answer am to give the Gentleman.

The United States, Stand (in Accounts here) indebted for a large ballance to the house of W. M. & Co. – which I have represented to you and applyed for, to enable me to do something towards their Private concerns. – but no Answer to this, neither.

The Officers of the Crown in this place, having lately, as I understand, made sale of all the Furniture, wiring Apparel, & other effects, taken out of the house of the late Mr Thomas Morris. It is incumbent on me, in Name of Robert Morris Esq.r – to Notify ye same to Mr Lee Commercial agent, through the Hon.ble Commissioners, under whose Sanction,

he

he represents to have acted, that he may not plead ignorance of those consequences which his conduct, even with the Authority he was possess of, has incurred to the Credit, property, and reputation of Men injured, and insulted by the Exercise of his Powers

It gives me pain, I should be compelled to make this a Subject of correspondence so long. — Nevertheless. Indifferent & trifling as the business and Credit of W: M & Co may appear to your Hon—s or to the Man of business acting as Commercial Agent, and however much the Powers am Possessed of, ~~may~~ have been despised & rejected by the Hon—ble Gentlemen, who gave sanction to Mr. Lee's assumed exercise of a daring unpresedented Power I hold my self justifiable to communicate what occurs, to the prejudice of my absent friends in this business, untill Some other Person are invested with such Powers as merit the Attention of the Representatives of America. —

I have the honour to be with all due Respect

Hon—ble Gentlemen

Your very obedient Servant

J. Wil—

Nantes 18th Aug: 1778

(No 221) Aug 19-1778

Louis jean Marie De Bourbon Duc de Penthievre amiral de france, atous ceux qui ces presentes Lettres verront Salut — Scavoir faisons qu'entre françois xavier Pilartry de quimper Mtre du Navire La Marie francoise jean Bernard de l'ile Dieu Mtre du Nav. nommé L'amitié, Pierre Pincau de Nantes Mtre de celui nommé le jean jacques Et Pierre gaillard commd. celui nommé La marguerite de St Briac Etant tous de present En ce Port de Dunquerke demandeurs par requete Et exploit du huit aout present mois d'une part

Contre les vve Dque Morel Et fils negotiant demeurant En Cette ville deffendeurs d'autre part

Lecture faite apposititive que par quatre differentes charte parties du 14. juillet dernier ils freterent leurs dits Navires aux deffendeurs pour prendre En ce port leur Plein chargement de munitions de guerres, qu'une clause ajoutée a chaque charte partie portoit qu'au cas de guerre declarée avant le Depart les demandeurs ne seroient pas tenus de Partir, au contraire quil leur seroit Permis de decharger leur cargaison, que quelques jours après la

signature de ces chartes parties Le Roy auroit envoyé une declaration qui authorise ses sujets a armer en course contre les anglois cequi etoit Equipollent a une Declaration de guerre avec cette nation; que cela determina les demandeurs a ne prendre leur chargements qu'aux risques perils et fortune des deffendeurs avec protestation de faire suporter leur retardement au port et tous leurs dommages et interets parceque au moyen de la declaration de sa Majesté les chartes parties demeuroient anéanties, que ces protestations furent denoncées aux d. deffendeurs le vingt un dudit mois de juillet, qu'ayant eté chargés les deffendeurs voulurent obliger les demandeurs a partir pour leur destination, mais que cette pretention avoit eté proscritte par jugement de ce Siege du trente dudit mois de juillet, que sur la demande de frais de charge, decharge et retard dommages et interets, ordonnons d'en venir en personne quen conformité de ce jugement les demandeurs attendoient qu'on dechargeat: mais n'ayant pu convenir avec les deffendeurs de leur interpretations ils etoient forcés de recourir a l'authorité du Siege pour quil nous plut leur

permettre de faire appeller a notre audiance de lundi lors prochain les deffendeurs tant Enleurs Domicile qu'ez celui de Mre Sixp leur procureur pour se voir condamner même par corps a payer a chacun des demandeurs la somme de quarante Livres par jour a compter du vingt six juillet dernier jusqu'au jour de leur parfaite decharge et du payement de leur du et ce pour tenir lieu de frais de charge et decharge de leur navire et des domages et interet ou retards qui leur sont dus acause que les deffendeurs les avoient chargés malgré eux et contre la teneur de leur de leur engagements et les avoient obligez obligés de rester en ce port, si mieux n'aimoient les deffendeurs de payer au dire d'expert, et quils seront tenus d'opter lad. dans le jour de la signiffication de la sentence a rendre, sinon déchu de l'option, se voir en outre condamner aux interets de la somme a la quelle se trouveroit monter la condamnation a compter du jour de la demande et aux Dépens de la presente poursuitte a compter du jour de la sommation du vingt six juillet

voir la autre dire et ordonner que la sentence
a rendre seroit executée nonobstant touttes
oppositions ou appellations quelconques
conformement aux Privileges de flandre
la d. requeste signé a Jansoone Pr.

Lecture aussy faite de notre ordonnance
en marge de lad. requeste de Permettre
d'assignation donné la consequence du
deffaut faute de comparoir led. deffendre
obtenu a notre audiance du dix de ce mois
et la Cause de rechef portée a notre audiance
de ce jour oui les demandeurs la personnes
a pater de M. jansoone leur Procureur
nous avons contre les deffendeurs non
comparans ni personne pour eux donné
deffaut et pour le profit, nous condamnons
les deffaillants et par corps a payer a
chacune des parties de jansoone la somme
de trente livres pour chaque jour de retardement
lequel et a acompter du vingt juillet
dernier jusqu'au jour de leur parfaite
decharge si mieux n'aiment les deffaillants

payer lesd. et retardement audire d'arbitres a nommer de part les d. autres sinon par nous nommé d'office ce qu'ils seront tenus d'opter endedans le jour de la signiffication de notre presente sentence sinon decheu, condamnons les deffaillants aux interets et aux depens, ce qui sera executé nonobstant touttes oppositions ou appellations quelconques et sans y prejudicier, Les d. depens liquidez a la somme de vingt sept livres Douze sols six deniers y Compris le Cout des presentes Mandons au premier huissier ou sergent royal du siege ou autre requis de faire pour l'entiere execution des presentes tous actes et exploits requis et necessaires de ce faire lui donnons pouvoir fait et rendu par nous Bernard Pierre Coppens d. persiz et autres lieux chevalier de l'ordre du roy Gouverneur de la ville d'honnonte, et Lieutenant General civil et criminel de L'admirauté de france Etabli pour la flandre a Dunkque. Jour le siet ordinaire de cette juridiction

audit Daulk.e le douze avant Mil sept
cent soixante dix huit signé Coppeaudhersin
Collationné signé jausoone

a la Requete du soussigné Procureur
de Laplatintey & Consors

soit signiffié copie de la sentence cy
dessus aux s.rs le Dque Morel le fils
au Domicile de sd leur procureur le autres
acequils nen ignorent avec sommation de
s'y conformer aux peines y portées dont
acte sauf prejudice a leurs droits et actions
nommement d'interjetter appel des Chefs
qui sont griefs aux demandeurs signé
a jausoone

signiffié copie comme dessus aux
d s. s. Dque Morel le fils en leurs D.
parlant a leur servante a cequils nen
ignorent par l'huissier soussigné a
Daulk.e le 19 aoust 1778 signé Robin.

(No 221) Sentence of the Admiralty
at Dunkirk

Sentence of the
Admiralty at Dunkirk

(6)

In Council.

Philadelphia August 20th 1778.

Sir

This Council, and a committee of the Honourable House of General Assembly, have had a conference on the subject of fortifying the river Delaware, and are desirous of conferring with a Committee of Congress on this important business, before any determination be had thereupon. Should Congress judge it proper to appoint a committee for the said purpose, Council will thank you for the earliest intelligence thereof; as the season is far advanced, and no time ought to be lost. —

I am Sir, with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient humble servant

Geo. Bryan Vice-president.

Honble Henry Laurens Esqr.
President of Congress

Letter from Council
of Pennsylvania
20 Aug. 1778
Read 21
Referred to Mr R H Lee
Mr Duer
Mr Scudder

Honble
Henry Laurens Esqr
President of Congress
Present

On Publick business

Sir

Conscious of the Obligation under which I lay for the friendly advice you are pleased to give me I seize the earliest opportunity to present you my thanks & assure you of the sincerity of my gratitude —

Inclosed I send you my letter to the Honble. Commissioners for your perusal which you will please to deliver if you think fit — you have been very kind & very right in not handing them the former as after a second perusal I find that there is indeed too much of it which

The Honourable
Arthur Lee Esqr

is

It is to be attributed to the moment of surprise & indignation in which it was wrote. —

Emboldened by your amicable proof of Patronage I dare ask the continuance of them assuring you of the respectfull attachement & the high obligation with which I am

Sir Your most devoted & most humble obedient servant
P. F. Dobrée

Nantz 20 Aug 1778

I should be obliged to you to beg of Mr. De Chaumont to ask informations to his intimate friend & Relation Monsieur Epiven de la Villeboinet of my Family — or to Mr. De Rab formerly Director of the India Sales co. whom I dare say he is well acquainted —

Honourable Gentlemen

I am extreamly sorry to have an indispensible Occasion of intruding upon your Occupations, but having been informed that I am accused to you as a Spy, I can not avoid taking this Liberty to beg as an Act of Justice that every possible enquiry may be made onto this, & that my Accuser and myself may be brought face to face when I am satisfied that I shall be able to convince you of the falsehood of the Accusation - for this purpose (or any other) I shall always be happy to attend upon you - and gratefully thank you for all the Enquiries you will be obliging enough to make on my Account.

I have the honour to be with the highest Consi-deration most respectfully, Honourable Gentlemen

Your most obedient & most humble Servant.

Nantz 20 Augt 1778

Peter Fredk Dobrée

Mrs Franklin, Lee, & Adams.

True Copy. H. Ford Sect

(No 232) June 21 1778

Monsieur,

J'espere que Vous serés informé que j'ai obtenû du l'honorable Congrés la permission de retourner en Europe pour douze mois —

Je me ferais une gloire d'être utile aux Etats de l'amerique même dans mon absence et je suis persuadé que je pourrois rendre quelques services a eux a la Cour de Berlin etant bien connu du Roi, d'une famille qui me pourroit assister, et connoissant tous les ressorts de cette cour —

Je serois charmé si on me vouloit honorer de quelques commissions en cet egard, et je pourrais prendre les informations chés Vous ou chés le Docteur Francklin en passant par Paris. — Je m'offre d'assister Mr. Votre frere Richard Lee en tout ce qu'il dependra de moi, et par les raisons deja indiquées et par cela que j'aurai l'opportunité d'etre toujours prés du Roi, Vous sentés bien Monsieur, que je lui pourrois etre assés utile — Si Vous croyés Monsieur que mes offres meritent quelque attention, Vous aurés la complaisance de parler avec les honorables membres de Votre departement et de leurs exposer le fait et de me faire avoir une Committée avant mon depart ou on me donnerait les instructions necessaires.

J'ai l'honneur d'etre

Monsieur

Votre trés humble serviteur

Baron de Arendt,
Colonel dans le Service des Etats de l'amerique

Philadelphie
ce 21me de Juin
1778.

Barn Arend
21 Aug. 1778
To R. H. Lee.
(No 232)
~~(201)~~

1778

To the
Honorable Henry Lee Esqr
Member of Congress

Barron Arend

106

(N° 223) Aug.t 22 - '78

Monsieur

Sans avoir l'honneur de vous être connu, je prens celui de vous ecrire, en conséquence de ceque l'on m'assure que vous avez le pouvoir de donner un Regiment de Dragons de nouvelle levée pour les Etats unis de L'Amerique, qui seroit pour servir a la Virginie; j'accepterois volontiers ce parti, en cas que le Roi de france me permis de l'accepter, en conservant mon rang et mes Apointemens a son service. On m'assure que cela ne souffriroit aucune difficulté; Je suis un ancien Officier de la Legion de Conflans qui a été suprimée et j'ai été conservé a la suite du Regiment de hussards de Conflans avec mon rang de Lieutenant Colonel

Si vous voulez m'honorer d'une reponse favorable je vous
enverrai l'Etat de mes services. quant a ma naissance
je suis né Gentilhomme Lorrain, apartenant a plusieurs
bonnes Maisons de Lorraine. Je sai que vous connoissez
M. de Saintignon Général des Chanoines Reguliers
auquel j'apartiens. Il y a peu d'Officiers Généraux dont
je ne sois connu, et je suis Notté au Bureau de la guerre de
façon a mériter L'Emploi que je vous demande: Je puis
vous assurer, Monsieur, que je tacherai de mériter votre
confiance par mon Zéle et mes actions militaires.
C'est dans ces sentiments que j'ai l'honneur de vous
assurer que je suis avec respect

Monsieur

Votre très humble
et très obeissant Serviteur
Le Chr. De Lahausse
Lieut Collonel a la Suite
du Regt. de Conflans

Metz ce 22 Aoust 1778.

tte

(No 223)

Le Chev. de la Chausse (? A la) 20

Aug. 22d. 1778.

(~~Norbo.~~)

French Officer

1778

~~No. 60~~

(No 224)

Sir/

Passi August 22d 1778

Mr Alexander Fowler & his Wife being bound to America, where he has heretofore resided as an Officer in the British Army, & it having been represented to us that his friendship to America occasioned his quitting that service, & has occasioned him some Hardships & Inconveniences. We recommend him to you for a passage to America, he paying your demands for the same & that he & his wife may be treated with respect.

We are your Humble Servts

B. Franklin

(Signed)

Arthur Lee

J. Adams

True Copy H. Ford

(No 224)

Franklin, Lee & Adams, Aug. 22d 1778
Recommendation of A. Fowler.

To all whom it may concern.

This shall certify that I was born in the Bishoprick of Durham in the Kingdom of South Britain, & that it was from a principle of attachment to the Cause of America, that has induced me to quit that empire, & go over with an Intention of settling in America.

Aug. 23d 1778.

Signed
A. Fowler

Attest H. Ford

True Copy H. Ford —

Copy

Dr Brother/ (No 259) August 22d 1778

This will be delivered to you by Mr John Lloyd the Gentleman whom I have so strongly recommended to you for Commercial Agent; from whose abilities & integrity we might expect that the system which has hitherto prevailed so much at the expence & disgrace of the public would be corrected, & the Credit of her Commerce restored. My Brother & myself have conceived that as the public allowance to the Commer=cial Agent is very liberal & the situation necessarily must recommend considerable business the person appointed might with the most fair & conscientious discharge of his duty to the public make his own fortune It was from a persuasion that Mr Lloyd was of the same sentiments & would act accordingly that we joined in recommending him to that Office

But I now repeat the opinion I took the Liberty of giving then, that to enable him to act with

Effect

effect for the public service, his office should be entirely independent of us the Commissioners, & all Commercial business whatsoever of Congress be directed by him. When he is in want of our political assistance in applying to the Minister & upon his request we should be bound to give it, or Congress would remind us of our Duty. It is by keeping the two departments Commercial & political distinct & independent as far as from the nature of things the former can be of the latter that we can alone expect to see men of character undertake & conduct the public business as we could wish That is for the public good. Hitherto the interposition of the Commissioners under the pretext of these mixt powers has been only to serve private ends, in which the Credit & interest of the public, as well as the time & character of Individuals have been sacrificed without measure & without mercy. It will require that temper ability, & integrity which I am assured & believe Mr Lloyd possesses, to restore the public Credit, & settle the accts which I plainly perceive have been purposely confused.

therefore recommend him to your patronage by what I know to be the strongest of all motives with you, your regard for the public good.

A. Lee to R. H. Lee.
Aug. 22d 1778

[See Life of A Lee II. 143]

(~~No 150~~)
(No 250)

Aug. 22 1778
A.L. to R.H.L. recd Aug 2. 79
recommending Mr. Lloyd to
the Commercial agency

(No 22672)

Stations of the Enemy's Cruizers

Augt 23d 1778.

Between Orkneys & the Island of Shetland the Jason Fregate of 32 guns to protect the homeward bound Whale trade from Hudson's Bay & Davis's Streights & the vessels comg Northabout.

On the eastern Coast of Scotland, three Sloops from 10 to 14 guns, to protect the Coast trade.

Two small Fregates of 16 & 18 guns, fitted out by the trinity Society at Hull, convoy the ships to & from the Baltic; their rendezvous being at Spurn head, situated at the north entrance of the Humber

One 24 gun Fregate & 2 Cutters are stationed in Yarmouth Roads to convoy the trade from thence to the ports of Holland &c.

Two Sloops of war of 20 guns cruize between Harwich & Helvoetsluys to protect the Packets.

Two Frigates & two Cutters cruise between the Doggers bank & Catgat, to protect the vessels comming from the Baltic, to London & the ports in the Channel.

The Buffalo of 64 guns, lies in the Downs as a gaurd Ship.

Two ~~Ships~~ Frigates, several large Cutters, one Snow & a Schooner constantly cruize between Dover & Calais & examine all the Ships comming up or going down the Channel.

Not less than Six Cutters, one Brigantine & a Schooner which carry from 10 to 18 guns are stationd in the Offing between Calais & Ostend, in sight of each other to intercept the Dunkerk Privateers & their prizes— two of these Privateers— with four Prizes are now blockt up in the port of Ostend.

A 64 gun Ship & a Cutter were seen yesterday, standing up the Channel 12 leagues

north of Dunkirk.

Copied in the Book

H. H. Ford

A Lee to Secret Committee (Probably) Aug. 23d 1778

1778

No

Mr Ford is desired to Copy the enclosed, filling up the number of Guns of the Jason frigate, which he will see in the Court Register, enclose & direct it to the Committee of Correspondence & give it to Mr Ingersol who is not yet gone.

A. L.

(No 226 1/2)

Nommer ces vaisseaux

Enemy's Stations

Copy sent to Comte de Vergennes

Klingenthal Le 24. Aoust 1778.

(N° 225)

Monsieur

J'ai L'honneur de vous informer qu'en Consequence de mon marché et des Ordres particuliers de M. Le Maire j'ai remis au S.r Manberger fourbisseur a Strasbourg La quantité de mille Lames de sabres pour Grenadiers et de mille pour Canonier de Virginie avec vingt Caisses.

Pour justiffier de cette fourniture, je vous fais presenter Monsieur par Le S.r Louatine mon Commis a Paris Le Recepissé du S.r Manberger pour Lesd.tes Lames et Caisses; et pour vous assurer que Lesd.tes Lames ont été Prouvées Controlées et sont de La meilleure qualité, il vous remettra de même Le Certifficat de M. Lech.r de Bellevile Inspecteur pour Le Roy de lad.te

M. Lée.

Manufacture.

Cette fourniture monte aux prix portés par mon marché.

savoir.

1000 Lames de Sabres pour Grenadiers	à 3 12	3600 " "
1000 Lames pour Tambours	à 3 10	3500 " "
Pour leur Transport à Strasbourg à raison de 25 " pour		
100 Lames cy		125 " "
20 Caisses	à 5 15	115 " "
Total pour Lad.te fourniture		7340 " "

pour le payement de laquelle somme de sept mille trois cent quarante Livres, je tire aujourd'huy sur vous Monsieur, une Lettre de Change de pareille somme à 5 jours de datte que Led.t S.r [illegible] vous presentera avec prière de l'accepter.

il me reste Monsieur à fournir 600 Lames pour dragons, il y en a déja plus de 200. de Livrées à compte. Le surplus Le sera avant douze jours, et j'aurai l'honneur de vous en

informer en vous renvoyant pour nulle La Lettre de Credit de M. Grand qui est pour une somme plus forte que ne le sera ma fourniture. j'Espere que vous serès satisfait autant de La bonne qualité de toute La fourniture dont je suis chargé, que de L'exactitude avec Laquelle je L'aurai remplie.

j'ai L'honneur d'être avec La Consideration La plus respectueuse

Monsieur

Votre tres humble et
tres obeisant serviteur

Lau

(No 225) Gau to A. Lee
24th Augt '78

Per S.L.Mc (Nº 257)

Dear Sir. Gunston-Hall August 24th. 1778.

Mr. Hunter

We have such various & vague accounts of our Affairs to the Northward, & of the Movements of the French Fleet, that I am extreamly anxious to know, with Certainty, what is doing. Is our Army drawn near to King's Bridge? are the Enemies out-posts abandoned? Is N. York effectually besieged? are, or can the Enemie be prevented from forageing upon Long Island & Staten Island? Is the Cork Fleet of Victuallers arrived at N. York; or was the Report a piece of Artifice? or is ~~there~~ has any such Fleet actually sailed? Has Lord Howe's Fleet left Sandy Hook, & gone to Rhode Island; or ~~there was~~ were the English Ships which appeared there a Fleet lately from Great Britain;

&

& What has been the Consequence of their meeting with the Count D'Estaings Squa=
=dron? Are the french Land Forces landed upon Rhode Island, to act in Concert with Genl. Sullivan, & are they thought able to Burgoyne the British Troops there? I am almost ashamed of having asked You so many Questions; I think they are nearly equal to the String with which old Colo. Cary once harrassed Doctr. Francis, upon his coming on Shore at Hampton. If Ld. Howe, with his Fleet, has really left N. York, the British Army must be in the most desperate Circumstances, & his Inten=
=tion must be to draw off the Attention of the French Squadron, until the Troops can embark, & run down to the South=
=ward

=ward, where they can get Provisions; for I hardly think they can have Provisions for a long Voyage

The Money rec.d for Yr. Tob.o is sent down to Mr. Lee at Bellview, as You ~~as you~~ desired. I wish the Tob.o had not been sold so soon, as the Price has risen 15/ ⅌ hund.d since

If the Congress, or any of Yr. Friends should have Occasion to purchase a quantity of Tob.o in this Part of the Country, I would beg leave to recommend my Friend & Neighbour Mr. Martin Cockburn: He was regularly bred to Business in a very Capital House in London, & I know no Man whose Attachment to the American Cause, or whose Integrity Diligence & Punctuality can be more thoroughly confided in. I am not fond of giving Recom=mendations; but I am so well acquainted with

[No 289]
[No 95]

[with Mr. Cockburn, that I know I can re=
=commend him with Safety.]

God bless You, my Dear Sir, & believe
me Your affect. Friend & Servt.

G Mason

Richard Henry Lee Esqr.

No 289

(No 226)

Dear Nephew

D'Estaing was on the 29th of July, it is said in the Lat 41 50. Long. 55. 20 with his own ship the Princess royal the Grenville & Culloden & the Guadaloupe Ships. & no more — the Port is compleatly blocked up by Sea & Land. — an Expedition forming agst Long Islands. — Gen. Conway has received a Ball in his Head in a duel with Mr Cadwallader.

I am Dr Nephew
your Affect:
Jon: Johnstone

Augt 25. 1778

Keppels Fleet has sailed

(No 226).

Jon: Johnstone
alias Ed: Jennings
Aug. 25th: 1778.

25
AV

(No 252)

My dear Col. Augt. 25. 1778

I have only to thank you for your several late Letters, which I should sooner have acknow=ledged the Receipt of, had I been at Home; but I was absent on a Visit to our Friends in Richmond, where I had the Pleasure of seeing your Brother in perfect health.

The Situation of our Affairs at Rhode Island is such as excites the utmost Anxiety, & yet affords ample Room to hope for a prosperous Issue. I should have but little doubt of Success in that Expedition, if it was conducted by any other Officer than Genl. Sullivan; who, tho' he is brave in a great degree, is by no means equal to such a Command. I am impatient to hear what has happened between the two Fleets. If Count D'Estaing meets with no Disaster, the Glory which he has acquired, in giving Chace to a British Admiral & his whole Fleet, will be of great Service to his Seamen. It will animate them to great Attempts, they will think themselves at least equal to the B. Seamen, whose Superiority on the Water has been too generally admitted.

All at Mann'sfield present their affectionate Compliments to you. I am, dear Sir

Your affectionate Friend

Mann Page Jun.

Mann'sfield
Augt. 25th. 1778

(No 253)

~~No. 376~~

Messrs Page Jun: Esq!

Aug. 25th, 1778

Richard Henry Lee Esquire
in Congress
Philadelphia

26 Aug 78

A Son Excellence,

Monsieur Arthur Lee,

Ministre Plenipotentiaire des Etats unis de l'Amerique.

C'est avec une sensible joie que nous avons recu la tres gracieuse lettre dont il a plû à Votre Excellence de nous honorer le 30 Juillet. Nous serons des plus exacts de faire part directement à leurs Excellences Messieurs les Ministres plenipotentiaires des Etats Unis de l'Amerique de tout ce qui se passera d'interessant sur notre place

concernant les Affaires de Commerce des dits Etats, Et conformément à l'Ordre de Votre Excellence, nous venons d'annoncer par ce Courrier aux Messieurs les Plenipotentiaires Excellences l'arrivée sur notre rade depuis hier du Capt. Daniel Makenil commandant le batiment le General Mufflin de 20. Canons depuis 4. Mois en Course. Le Capit. a amené avec lui un Vaiseau françois à 2. Mats venant de la Guadeloupe chargé en Sucre, Caffé Et Indigo Et

qu'il a repris il y a 3. Jours d'un Corsaire de Guernesey qui lui a échappé.

On dit sur la Place que le Capt. Mikenil croit que la dite Prise lui appartient tout seul; mais ce sont M.M. les Plenipotentiaires Excellences qui en decideront. Il s'est lairré persuader de s'adresser à un certain Sr. Moylan qui se vante jusque dans les Caffés d'être le commissaire des Etats unis de l'Amerique. Et sur ce Titre il s'est fait faire depuis longtems beaucoup de hardes sur les quelles il

voit encore à son pauvre tailleur audela de Bois
Votre Excellence jugera par là de son Caractere
Et nous avons cru necessaire de vous en prevenir

Nous osons vous demander la Continuation de votre Protection Et sommes avec le plus profond Respect

De Votre Excellence,

L'Orient 26. Aout 1778.

Les tres humbles Et tres obeissants serviteurs

Puchelberg & Co.

Sir

Billbao 26 Aug.t 1778

I rec.d your favours of the 13.th Ins.t last Post Inclosing Cap.t Allens Commission Warrant & Instructions the Bond I shall execute Imediately & deliver to M.r Gardoqui

I expect the Vessell will sail about the last of this Month & as I have a fine Crew of young lads I hope soon to give a good account of their Proceedings —

the 24.th arrived here a Schooner from Edenton in N Carolina 45 days Passage the Cap.t is not able to give aney Important Intelligence he says he heard before his departure the British fleet & Troops had left new york but knew not their destination am S.r with the Greatest Respect
Yo.r Most Ob.t Serv.t J.n Emery

Hon.e Arthur Lee Esq.r

(No. 254)

Paris Augt. 27th 1778

Dear Brother

I enclose you some extracts which may be of use. You will see by the 348, a, XIV [Spanish] Letter that they seem to wish for 36, a, XII [accommodation]. I dispair very much of our 176, a, XXV-g [getting], 246, b, XXV [money], here to answer your demands till that takes place; & I plainly perceive that the 283, a, IV [suspense], & 98, b, XVI [confusedness] of our 40, a, III-s [affairs] will grow worse & worse every Day perhaps irretreevably so, till that takes place, and leaves the whole of your attention to this one object of 334, a, X-g [settling], 238, a, XV-s [matters]. The 243, a, XXII [Ministry] here told us yesterday, that they did not expect that we should desire any 41, b, XXIX [aid] in 246, b, XXV [money] from them after 416, b, XIX [war] began, so that they talk of 357, or 353, a, VIII-g [temporising] the 200, b, XXV [patience], they use to 272, a, XXXII [play], us, which will occasion infinite 132, b, XXIX [distress]. This I foresaw & proposed to avoid by stipulating a 361, a, I [subsidy], in the 2d. 382, b, XXIX [Treaty], but my 92, a, III-s [my Colleagues] evaded it, and to my astonishment the 134, a, VI [Doctor], has continued to put it off till every favourable Opportunity is lost. I have proposed it over, & over again, & every thing being now done that they wanted us to do; we are in terms told to shift for ourselves. Perhaps they may think better of it, but I wish they may not be relied upon too much, & if 192, a, XXXIII [humble], 372, a, XIX-s [terms] are 260, a, IV-d [offered], I think it will be our ruin to 309, a, XV [refuse], them.

I beg you will keep this in your mind, and avoid pledging yourself more to them, than is absolutely necessary. 445, a, XIV [Gerard] is a man of tricks & will try to entangle you. You have a Specimen of what Holker is; and I believe his 39, a, XXXV [advertisement], about paying the money for the prizes given up, will in the End be found to be an 201, a, XXXIV [imposition].

Mr. Ingersol will deliver you this. He is a Young Gentleman of very good Sense and Character, and has always been an Advocate for the Cause of his Country.

I have the honor to be, with much esteem,

Dear Brother,

Your most obedient, and
very humble Servant

Copy.

H. Ford Secy

A. Lee to R. H. Lee
Aug. 27th 1778

(Copy entire leaving out the cypher & inserting the words as interlined)

(No 254)

Aug. 27. 1778 recd. Aug 2. 79
A. L. to R H L
about dispositions of F. & S.
courts

12) 6570
547

365
18
2920
365
6570
750
5790
7. 70
2. 1790

6470
54
18020

365
18
2920
365 4
28) 6570 (234
56
97
84
130
112
18

365
18
2920
365
112) 6570 (58
560
970
896
74

(No 253)

Dr Brother /   Paris August 27th 1778

I enclose you some extracts which may be of use. You will see by the 348, a, XIV [Spanish] Letter that they seem to wish for 36, a, XII [accommodation]. I despair very much of our 176, a, XXV-g [getting] 246, b, XXV [money] here to answer your demands till that takes place, & I plainly perceive that the 283, a, IV [plunder] & 98, b, XVI [confusedness] of our 40, a, III-s [affairs] will grow worse & worse every day perhaps irretreivably so, till that takes place & leaves the whole of your attention to this one object of 334, a, X-g [settling] 238, a, XV-s [matters].

The 243, a, XII [minister] here told us yesterday, that they did not expect we should desire any 41, b, XXIV [aid] in 246, b, XXV [money] from them after 416, b, XIX [war] began so that they talk of 357 or 353, a, VIII-g [stopping] the 280, b, XXV [pittance] they give to 272, a, XXXII [pay] us, which will occasion infinite 132, b, XXIX [distress]. This I foresaw & proposed to avoid by stipulating a 361, a, I [subsidy] in the 2d 382, b, XXIX [treaty], but my 92, a III-s [colleagues] evaded it & to my astonishment the

134, a, VI [doctor]

134, a VI [Doctr] has continued to put it off till every fa-
vorable opportunity is lost. I have proposed it over
& over again, & every thing being now done that they
wanted us to do; we are in terms told to shift for
ourselves. Perhaps they may think better of it, but
I wish they may not be relied on too much, & if 192,
a, XXXIII [honorable] 372, a, XIX-s [terms] are 260, a, IV-d [offered], I think it will be our
ruin to 309, a, XX [refuse] them.

I beg you will keep this in your mind &
avoid pledging yourself more to them, than is absolutely
necessary. 455, a, XIV [Gr-r-d] is a man of trick & will try to en-
tangle you. You have a specimen of what a Holker is;
& I believe his advertisement about paying the money
for the prizes given up, will in the end be found to be
an imposition.

Mr Ingersol will deliver you this. He is a
young gentleman of very good sense & character;
& has always been an Advocate for the cause
of this Country.

Adieu

A Lee

Gerard

a now living in the County of Frederick

1778

Aug 17. 1779
A. Lee to
R. H. L.
politics

Paris

W

(No 253)

No 132

(25)

Nantes 27th August 1778

Dear Sir,

I have before me your much esteemed favors of the 21st July and 14th August ye former of wch I would have duely answered but as I am confident your worthy Brother at Paris informs you of whatever concerns the Agency I have differed it till now. He will doubtless have advised you of the scandalous accusations that have been made against my Son in Law in anonimous Letters handed to the Commissioners by Monsr De Chaumont, in which they say that I am no ways capable of discharging the Office which you have obligingly entrusted me with. I hope my Dear Sir that I need not refute these accusations before you, not doubting but that you will render me the Justice wch you have at all times done — I can see as well as all my friends that ye authority that the Honble Commissioners have received of naming Agents in France has spurred a number of my Ennemys (wch can't be so but by Jea=

ploisy) to try by such hints and Whispers
to prejudice them against me, & I in a man-
-ner do not doubt but that they will succeed
since they do not care by what meanes they
do it. I would be glad to know from you what
steps you should think proper for me to
take on this Occasion & whether or no it
should be proper for me to write to America
You will excuse this Liberty which you
can't but attribute to ye friendship you
have always shewn me. Mr Colston's
Cards were shipt in the Month of June
of June last, and the 7th July I had the honor
of transmitting you the Invoice wch I
suppose has remained at Paris; I am ex-
-treemly sorry that this does not answer sd
Gentleman's views but hope notwithstan-
-ding that it will be an advantagous affair
for him; Mrs Schweighauser and family
joins me in best respects to your worthy
Lady, and am with very great respect

Your most Oblig'd & Obedient
Sir Humble Servant
J. Dl. Schweighauser

J. D. Schweighauser
to
Wm Lee
Aug. 27th 78
Enclosing another of
July 7th 78.

1778

A Monsieur
Monsieur W. Lee
chez Monsieur Grand
Banqr
Paris

Opened by mistake
Augt 31st 1778

John Page

1778

~~40340~~ (No 255)

To

The Hon.ble Rich.d Henry Lee

at

Philadelphia

by Favor of }
Col. Finnie }

(No 255) [See Oct. 15th

Dear Sir Wmsburg Augst 7r. 28th. 1778

I am much obliged to you for your Account of our Military Opera=tions at Rhode-Island - they were certainly in a fine Train when the british Fleet appeared - but I am afraid if the Count pursued too far the Enemy will either be able to keep Possession of Newport or escape from it over to Long-Island - I suspect that this was all that Ld Howe expected to be able to effect - However - I will hope for the best - & flatter myself that the Count if he did not come up with & destroy Part of the Fleet, at least returned Time enough from the Chase to finish the Business he had so well begun at Rhode Island -

I write in great Haste - that I may send my little Scrawl by

Col. Finnie who is just setting out—

I am dear Sir your
affectionate Friend
&c
John Page

Chaillot
Arthur Lee Esqr

Bordeaux 29 Aug 1778

Dear Sir

Since what I had the pleasure to write you the 23 Instant we are without any American Intelligence

The General Arnold is Loaded and waits only the Arrival of your Instructions to Sail. she is so sharp and of course the Hold so small that five Bales of the Cloathing cannot be shipt by her I shall forward to you by next post the Bills of Loading with the Accompts which I defer by this on acct of the Burreau des Fermes with whom I am in contest for the duties they have exacted if I do not obtain the restitution I shall transmit you all their receipts and shall engage the Chamber of Commerce to unite with me in a representation of the Injury that will attend their loading their own Manufactories with Imports of this Nature

I shall

I shall ship the remaining Bales in a vessel going in few days. I apprehend it is immaterial in what Province the Goods arrive at as they go to the Continental Agent —

I shall give next week to the execution of the Commission I received last Post for the Lumber which as mention'd by mine of this date to the Com^rs. will not be shipt before November by the best Information I have yet been able to obtain

If you meet Mr Izard please to pay my respects and inform him his Interest on board the Chevalier de Gluck was safe to the westward of Cape Finester. Since my return I have been particularly honord by the Governor Duc du Mouchi & his family as your Agent — Mad. La Marquise de La Fayette has honord me with her ~~[illegible]~~ commands & injunctions — the little enchantress is watchful to apply her dentities to his advantage

with most sincere Attachment I am

Dr Sir

Your very Hbl Servant

John Bondfield

Lee Esqr ... Bilbao the 29th August 1778

Honoured Sir

We have the pleasure to be honoured by this
your very Esteem'd lines of the 15th Instant &
ning you our most cordiall acknowledgments for
have to informe you in Repply that allthowe
d timely boath to the French & Spanish Captn
ll up for America, as well as to their Respective
desiring them to Spare us some Room on Board
em: their Answers were that they had bought more
for their Speculations than the Vessells could Carry
having since putt up for that Continent
ived of the pleasure of shipping the most part
er now Ready; however having luckly appeared
he the Schooner Hawke Captn Barzilla Smith
North Carolina with a cargoe of Tobacs to our
we are flattered with hopes of being able to
bigining with him, & be assured good Sir that
rtunity of this Kind will be missed by us
must informe you for your goverment that
wrotte to our Brother to lett us Know whether
Freinds chose that we should Ship those articles in
Bottoms, he gives us to Understand that this
t be conductted in the same method as the last
eason to believe that the American Vessells will
lls in this Season, of Cource it will not be in our
to be so expeditious as could wish for want only

of opportunitys to ship them. —
Capt Smith has had 45 days passage, & the Ne[ws he]
brings can hardly be depended upon, he says [he is]
to have seen in one of the Publick paipers th[at]
Ships of Warr Frigattes Included had safely [arrived at]
Boston & also that the British Troops had [...]
New yorke & that Lord Howe had convoy'[d]
to Quebeck Rhode Island & Halifax; butt [as]
none of your Courrieres those News want Co[nfirmation]
We returne you Sincere thanks for those y[ou were]
pleased to communicatte us & In hopes of b[eing favoured]
with the continuation thereof remmain w[ith the]
greatest Esteem & affection —

Honoured Sir

your mt obt hu[mble servants]

Joseph Gardoqui [&]
[Sons]

5

Pm 8 Aug (No 256)

Sir, Philadelphia August 29th 1778

I was yesterday favored with your letter of the 25th instant, for which be pleased to accept my thanks. I do recollect that when my brother practiced physick in Virginia about ten or eleven years ago, I then heard him sometimes mention a Doctor Berkenhout who had written a pharmacopea which he esteemed, and that he had an acquaintance with and regard for the Doctor — Beyond this my knowledge of Doctor Berkenhout or his concerns extends not; having never had a word concerning him from my brother since that time nor did I ever see the Doctor that I remember — I have laid your letter before Congress, and their sense seems to be, that you use your discretion in cases similar to that of Doctor Berkenhout, governing yourself by the nature of the circumstances.

I have the honor to be, with regard Sir your most obedient and very humble servant

Richard Henry Lee

Gen. Maxwell

Copy of R. H. [illegible]
Letter to Genl Maxwell
abt Dr Berkenhout
& the [illegible] Letter to
[illegible] Lee

R H Lee
to
Gen. Maxwell
Aug. 29th 1778

[No 194]
(No 256)

Augt 1778
Copy of my letter to Genl
Maxwell in answer to
his about Dr Berkenhout.

No. ~~2X~~ 196

Dear Sir

I cannot delay presenting my sincere thanks for the letters, that you have been pleased to honour me with, and am extreamly flattered to find, that you think me worthy of so confidential an introduction to your friends. be assured, that I shall be happy, and my endeavours shall not be wanting to merit a continuance of your good opinion, and to deserve the friendship of the gentlemen to whom you have mentioned me in so favourable a light.

Having an earnest desire to promote the true interest and prosperity of the United States, detached from any Selfish, and lucrative views whatever. I intend upon my arrival in America to address my friends in Congress, and to make them a respectful tender of my best Services in the Mercantile line.

I perfectly agree with you in sentiment relative to the integrity of Mr Stevenson and am confident that he is a truly deserving character.

Mrs Lloyd is much obliged for your kind remembrance and presents her Compliments. I am thankful for your friendly wishes and have the honor to be with sincere regard

Dear Sir

Your much Obliged

& most Obedt Servt

John Lloyd

Nantes Augt 29th 1778

Sir

Mr. Gilbank the Bearer of this an Officer in the Artillery in the Service of the State of South Carolina, who has had the Misfortune to be taken both in coming from Charles Town to France for his Health, as well as returning to America, hath applyed to me to give him a Letter in Case of any Mischance happening to him on his return to Nantes to embark, I have taken the Liberty to mention him to you. If he should have Occasion for any Assistance on his return, I apprehend any little favour you could shew him, will not be a detriment to the States, he being firmly attach'd to the Cause of America. —

I hope in a very few Days to pay my personal Respects to you in Paris, and in the mean time I remain, with the utmost Respect and Regard

Sir

Your most Obedient Humble Serv.

W Blake

August 30th. 1778.

The Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

Paris

1 Affut de chaque espece
au lieu des 14 qui sont
dans l'etat des Effets
qui doivent etre expedies
de Dunkirk

which I take to be erroneous; befides Mr. Williams's charge of 2 per cent. commiffion amounting to 6607 12 4, which is the ufual mercantile commiffion. The public is charged with an additional 1 per cent. to Peltier du Doyer, who in fact it feems did the bufinefs, though Mr. Williams was on the fpot. From whatever caufe Mr. Williams's incapacity to do the bufinefs arofe, for which the public is to pay the above commiffion, is immaterial. He who did it is to be paid, and no more than what is ufual can be permitted to be charged. In the fame manner on the cannon fhipped in the Independence, there is 2 per cent. commiffion charged by Mr. Williams, and 1 per cent. by Mr. Peltier 46l. 17 fols and 93l. 14 fols, and the fame on anchors imported from St. Sebaftian 207 4 4 and 414 10. It is therefore manifeft that the public is charged in the account with 3 per cent. inftead of two, and yet Mr. Williams, in his memorandum, fays, "As J. Williams made an agreement with Mr. Peltier to divide this commiffion between them, it really coft but 1 per cent." That there is not only a feperate account of charges on goods received for fhiping, the whole

amount of which with the commiſſion (20861 3) is carried to the general debit; but there is alſo in the general debit 1145 16 9 charged for carriage of clothing, which muſt be included in the charges on clothing, in the former account, and is therefore a double charge. That with regard to the ſeperate account, there is not only the detail of articles and charges, but there is added

			Livres.	Sols.
To charges on ſundry goods,			2532	13
To do.	on	do.	85	
To do.	on	do.	13	18
To do.	on	do.	94	5
To do.	on	do.	222	14
To do.	on	do.	542	
To charges on ſundry charges,			171	12

To this is added a ſtrange allowance to Mr. Peltier of 873-2. On theſe accumulated with the detail charges is a commiſſion of 2 per cent. Then comes a ſupplement and commiſſion upon it. All theſe are either double or inexplicable charges. That there is a commiſſion of two per cent. charged on clothes and arms remaining to be ſhipped, 2438 livres which I believe is a new kind of charge. That

as

as the disbursements on the Ranger are improperly charged to the commissioners, that business belonging to others, and they having not given any orders for it, the charge of 3738l. 13s. 3d. for 5 per cent. commission, though not allowable, must be regulated by the Commercial Agent. That the sums charged as lent to prisoners, for which not a single receipt is given in, are enormous. These prisoners had been before provided for by the public, and their expences paid to Nantz, where it was expected they would not only cease to be any farther burthen to the public, but relieve us from the necessity of making enormous advances to French sailors, Instead of this we find the charge of 5904 livres for a few persons, being more than they cost at and from Dunkirk to Nantz, and fully sufficient to have maintained them half a year. It is this lavishing the public money in a thousand ways, which has made the expenditure so great, and the supplies so small, that he has shewed no order from the commissioners, nor had he any, for lending 20,000livres to Mr. Ross, which he can therefore have no right to charge to the public. That 720l. 11s. are by his

own

own confeſſion charged double. That his remitting a bill upon Mr. Claumont of 50,000l. to Dr. Franklin, which the latter has endorſed to the former, has no concern with the commiſſioners to whom that tranſaction has never been communicated. Money was remitted from the public funds in Paris to Mr. Williams at Nantz at a conſiderable loſs in diſcount, to purchaſe ſupplies for which there was the utmoſt urgent demand. Inſtead of applying it to that purpoſe, he remits back 50,000l. to Dr. Franklin, which is ſecretly negociated to Mr. Claumont, never brought to public account nor made known to the other Commiſſioners, till an enquiry into this article compelled it. At the ſame moment Mr. Williams was continually drawing more money from the public banker * at Paris to Nantz, as appears by the bankers account. Mr. Williams pretends this was to pay an account of Mr. Claumont's againſt the Commiſſioners, but what he had to do with any ſuch account which has never been ſent to the Commiſſioners, or who ordered him to pay an account at Paris, what ſenſe there was in doing that by drawing the money from Paris

* See Page 50.

Paris to Nantz and then remitting it to Paris, he has not told us. So ſecret, ſo circuitous, ſo abſurd a tranſaction, is too ſuſpicious to be allowed. For if ſuch modes of accounting for the expenditure of the public money are permitted, there will be an end to all poſſibility of ſettling accounts, or ſaving the public from continual impoſitions.

That in fine, though it is near five months ſince the veſſels ſailed, Mr. Williams has not given in a ſingle voucher or receipt to ſupport the accounts which he has at laſt laid before us, and which depend entirely on his own vouching. For theſe reaſons I am of opinion that his accounts are erroneous, and ought not to be paſſed.

(Signed) A. LEE.

Z

Extract of a letter from —— Digges, *Eſq. to the Hon.* Arthur Lee, *Eſq. dated* Briſtol, *Auguſt* 30. 1778.

" IT is beyond a doubt that there were very conſiderable ſums done in the ſtocks by the friends of a certain quondam commiſſioner, about November and

 December

December laſt, in conſequence of the arrival in London of Dr. Bancroft, with the news of the favourable turn given to American affairs by the ſurrender of Burgoyne's army. The Doctor was in cloſe cog. all the time he was in London, and was never viſible but to the brothers (meaning the Whartons in London) and one or two other confidents, whom I always ſhunned on account of their intimacy with Vanſittart, before and after his apoſtacy in expoſing the letters he bore from American people in London to their friends in Paris, among which were ſome of mine. During the time I was buſy in London getting forward the ſubſcription for relief of American priſoners, and when Mr. Thornton was over about them, I gave that gentleman a full verbal account of this infamous tranſaction of Vanſittart, in order that it might be made known to your community; and I wrote particularly to you and Mr. Izard by Mr. Thornton, about it, as I am poſitive of the facts alledged againſt him. Vanſittart ſeems to have got his deſerts, for I hear he is ſhunned by your community as well as all his countrymen in France: You may aſſure yourſelf that Lord North, Mr. Knox,

Mr,

Mr. Hartley, and ſome others about the Secretary's Office, knew of Dr. Bancroft's being in London, the former had information of what he was about, and had him dogged more than once to the houſe of Samuel Wharton, at late hours in the night. I had convincing proofs of this before the Doctor took flight to France, and being then in intimacy with Samuel Wharton (from knowing he had the confidential correſpondence of Dr. Franklin, and getting him at times to forward my letters.) I went to him and expoſtulated with him on the impropriety of Dr. Bancroft's being in London on a ſtockjobbing errand, in which it was very viſible Mr. Deane was concerned, and that Dr. Franklin was not abſolutely ignorant of it. It is natural to me, Sir, to feel much where my country is concerned. I have often wiſhed my feelings leſs, but at that period of time I was more than uſually agitated and unhappy.

Many hundred American priſoners were in a ſtarving condition from cold and famine; numbers were daily taken at ſea, and forced to war againſt their countrymen on board Engliſh ſhips. Every perſon who came from France told me it was but a

partial

partial aſſiſtance that country was giving to mine, and every mouth was full of the diſunity that ſubſiſted in your ſmall community. That the two firſt commiſſioners formed a party againſt you; that one of them at leaſt, if not both, had united againſt you, in a manner very unjuſtifiable, both in reſpect to yourſelf and the buſineſs you were concerned in; and that a vile combination ſubſiſted to reduce you, not only to a cypher, but to ſink you into contempt; that you were not in the confidence of the other two, and a variety of other tittle tattle ſtories, chiefly levelled at the conſequence of yourſelf and brother, for he too has had his ſhare of abuſe, particularly as to the ſtory of the ill conſequence of his ſelfiſhneſs in regard to his loſing two or three Weſt-Indiamen, which were carried into Nantz laſt ſummer, and were given up to their owners in London; a lie that both from my Nantz letters, as well as other conviction here, I had in my power to flatly contradict it. There has been a ſtory lately againſt Samuel Wharton, which will make me more cautious than ever I was with him. It is ſomething ſimilar to that of Vanſittart, and came originally from the

(No 227) Aug 31-1778

Messieurs

Nous avons proffitté de l'Occasion de Mons.r Whitall pour vous faire parvenir un Livre relié en Bazane contenant Deux Cent Cinq Promesses de Mille florins chaque, ce qui forme un Capital de Deux Cent Cinq Mille florins. Argent courant d'hollande payable le premier Janvier Mille Sept Cent ~~Soixante~~ Quatre Vingt huit a vôtre Domicille garnies de Dix Coupons de Cinquante florins d'Interest par Année; le tout au Porteur & signé par nous.

Vous nous en accuserez la reception.

Il faudra timbrer ce livre A & conse=quemment de même touttes les Deux Cent Cinq Promesses. A chaque Livraison que vous en ferez vous aurez

soin

de remplir les Blancs, c'est a dire le
Numero de la Promesse que vous pouvez
designer par N° 200 si vous ne voullez pas
commençer par un pour ne pas faire voir
le Nom du Porteur
que c'est la premiere, Son Folio, & la
date du Jour de la Delivraison : Vous
observerez de remplir egallement touts ces
blancs sur le talon qui resterra attaché
au livre quand vous en aurez coupé la
Promesse en Feston par le millieu du
Timbre. Etats unis de l'Amerique
Septentrionalle + Il seroit a
souhaiter que l'on trouva sur le Talon
les mêmes dattes données aux Promesses
afin que l'un & l'autre se reportent exactement
& puissent servir de controlle chez vous
independamment de celui que l'on aura icy
c'est pourquoy il sera essentiel que touttes
les fois que vous delivrerez une ou plusieurs
Promesses vous en donniez exactement
avis & une Notte conforme a la Promesse
delivrée

+ suivant le modelle
cy Joint en françois

V. a son Salon.

objected to & expunged — Nous n'avons pas voulu datter ces Promesses pour vous donner par là une nouvelle Preuve de notre Confiance.

Il est superflu de vous observer de ne placer ces Promesses que contre de l'Argent comptant. ~~ou contre les Marchandises que nous pourrons être dans le cas de vous demander~~ (objected to & expunged) il l'est bien plus sans doutte de vous recommander d'operer la de ces Promesses avec toutte la Promptitude & en même tems avec toutte la Prudence & la Circonspection possible pour ne rien compromettre & surtout le Credit de cet Emprunt. Pour parvenir a ce but vous serez dans le cas de donner des Encouragemens a vos Agents & de faire des frais; pour en suprimer les details & vous mettre en même tems a même de ne rien menager, au lieu de Cinq

pour Cent

(N.º 227) Franklin, Lee & Adams to Tercas & Co 31st Augt 1778

que portent les Promesses nous vous en allouerons Six sur touttes celles que vous aurez placés & cella pour touts fraix quelquonques même de Ports de Lettres & de remises d'Argent ne voulant pas dans tous les cas que ce Fond revienne au dela de Six pour Cent touttes depences faittes.

Vous observerez une Marche Uniforme pour le Coupon d'Interrest c'est a dire qu'en le delivrant vous vous ferez bonifier l'Interrest qui aura couru jusqu'au Jour que vous l'aurez delivré.

Enfin pour tout ce qui a Attrait a cecy vous en correspondrez directement avec nous ou ceux qui nous Succederont avec qui vous vous entendrez pour la remise des Fonds afur & mesure qu'ils vous entreront afin qu'il n'y ait point de retard ny d'Interrest d'Argent perdu.

Nous sommes très parfaittement

Messieurs Vos tres humbles Serviteurs

Passy le 31 Augt 1778. Signed B. Franklin A Lee Jn Adams

Messrs Horneca Fizeaux & Co Amsterdam

The giving receipts in lieu of the Charges Objects &c. is being out of the ordinary course of business, but [illegible]

Chaillot
Arthur Lee Esqr

Bordeaux 1 Sepr 1778

Dear Sir

Inclosed you have invoice and bill of Loading of Goods shipt ꝑ the General Arnold Packet Boat amounting to thirty One Thousand three hundred Sixty one Livres fourteen Sols 2 deniers which sum is past to your debit in a/Ct. The remaining five bales will be shipt on board a Vessel now loading for Edenton of which in course Invoice & bill of Loading will be duly transmitted. you have also the accompt of charges and duties paid on the sixteen Cases of Arms recevd from Hambro with bill of Loading amount 1093.15.3 to your debit in a/c —
you will find at your Credit in said a/Ct the difference discompts received from Messs Bary & Co on the Clothing as also on some part of the Shoes and Hose bought on them terms I have shipt only 1761 pair Shoes the vessel not being able to contain more packages
If you approve to send by private Ships now Loading who will all make into Cheasapeak Bay in preference

on

on short Notice any quantity of Cloathing. Shirts. Shoes. Hose &c
may be collected. I flatter myself this little essay will
be to your Content. I make it my study to search
every Corner that can supply our demands on the
best and cheapest terms. the Cloathing Shoes and
Hose I am perswaided will be found superior in
quality to the price of any the publick have yet
received from this Kingdom. I should send you
by this Conveyance the Bills of the Duties paid but
having laid them before the Marchal de Mouchy and
intending to engage the Chamber of Commerce to
make an affair of Interest of theirs the repeal of these
Imports I defer to a farther day to transmit them. I
apprehend immediate Orders will be given to refund
them on application to the Controleur General —
They are Enormous in the highest degree and if
remedy be not speedily apply'd will divert the Trade
of this Kingdom into other Channels

Not any Intelligence on this Coast from
America of late date a Vessel arrived at Bilbao left

Wm Carolina

the 8 July You will please to honor my two drafts of this date favor of Bory freres & Co at fifty days date . 3900 } together eight Thousand
4100 }
Livres

With sincere Attatchment I am
Dr Sir

Your very Obt Servant
John Bondfield

Bonfield on the
Duties burthen
some to our trade

(No. 226½) Bis   Cer. of Le Maire & Gau. July 11 - 1 Sep. '78.

M. le Maire m'a payé particulièrement son sabre, la lame de damas et celle dorée au bleu dont il est question dans son Recepissé de l'autre part, qui ne vaut plus que pour deux lames de Grenadier de Virginie, deux de Canoniers, et trois de Dragon que M. le Maire a emporté avec lui à Paris pour les présenter à Messieurs les députés, les trois autres lames dont une de chaque espèce dont il est fait mention dans le dit Recepissé sont restées à la Manufacture pour modèles, et ne doivent point être payées.

à Klingenthal le 1. 7.bre 1778.

Gau

Mr A. Lee was very zealous to have M. Schweighauser (a Swiss Merchant at Nantes) made commercial agent for the Congress at that port. The other commissioners consented to it, & he was appointed. Now Mr Lee had a nephew in business with M. Schweighauser, or as his clerk. Mr Lee reiterates without end his charges against Dr Franklin, because he assented to Deane's putting business into his (Franklin's) nephew's hands. Lee anticipates objections against himself on the same score, but said the only reason, why his nephew was put with M. Schweighauser was that his latter "was a protestant". There was no doubt a good reason, — nor is Mr Lee bound to give any; but there is certainly the same ground for supposing his favor to M. Schweighauser to be founded on his relationship to the nephew, as in the case of Dr Franklin & Williams.

A. Lee to Patrick Henry,
Paris, Sep. 2d. 1778.

"Upon my return from Prussia, when I found he (Deane) was applying both the public ~~trade~~ money and influence to the purposes of his private trade and jobs, and that he was gambling in the stocks upon state secrets, I opposed him & these measures. This drew upon me his enmity".

"This and another fact, which is or will be soon notorious, that, in these times of

public & private distress and calamity, Mr Deane & his friends have amassed large fortunes, while every one else has suffered in his, must satisfy every man of the nature of his conduct".

[The chief objection to this is, that Deane made no fortune, but retired from the business of his agency in absolute poverty; — and thus the whole charge is false.]

A. Lee to Gen. James Warren.
Phild^a. Apl. 8th. 1782

"The detection of Deane seems not to have any odium or punishment on those, who countenanced or profited by his wickedness. Among these Dr Franklin & Robt. Morris are the most conspicuous. The latter was obliged to acknowledge in the newspapers, that he was in partnership with Deane, but pretended he thought him a man of honor. The Doctor by letters of the strongest recommendation endeavored to delude Congress into a renewal of their confidence in him with a new & important appointment. There are letters in town from Mr Searle, late member of Congress, that he has been repeatedly scandalized by hearing Mr Deane utter the abuse against America and France, which is contained in his intercepted letters, at Dr Franklin's table, without any reprehension from the

12

a Repondu quil etoit prest de ~~Rembourser~~ d'acquitter
10. la ditte Lettre de Change si la ditte femme
16. Lafargue porteuse d'icelle vouloit Rembourser
10. mon dit Sr de Chaumont de la somme de
12. Cinquante Sept Livres Sterling Remise par
9. Le tireur de la ditte Lettre de Change de 57 L
57. Sterling pour faire les fonds de la ditte traitte
Sterling ou donner bonne et Suffisante
Caution. ~~Lafar~~

Ech.e pour £ 51 Sterling Argent d'Angleterre

Phil.a Sep.r 2.d 1778

A vingt jours après la vue de cette ma seconde & troisieme du meme teneur & datte n'ayant par été payé) payé à Nicholas le Fevre ou à son ordre la somme de cinquant un livres Sterling per valeur reçu, & chargé le, suivant la direction de Monsieur Silas Deane au compte de votre tres humble & obeis.t Serviteur

Accepté ce 8 9bre Le Ray de Chaumont (Signé) W.m Duer

a Mons.r Ray de Chaumont

Payé la somme con[illegible] à Madame La Farque ou à son ordre

(Signé) Nicdes la Farque

Chaumont

(N° 23½) Nantes Le 3. 7bre 1778

Mousieur

J'ai reçu également L'honneur de la votre en datte du 29 du mois dernier, puisque vous ne voulez point m'envoyer la petite somme dont je suis en avance, Indiquez moi, aumoins, les moyens pour pouvoir subsister, en suivant vos operations, voila un mois que je suis à Nantes et vous sçavez que je suis sans le sol. vous ne devez point ignorer Le Zele que je voue à L'Etat de la virginie, et Le tout sans aucune pretention ni vues d'interet quelconque. Je vous prie egalement de me dire qui payera les ouvriers, armuriers et experts qui m'ont servi dans l'inspection des fusils.

J'ai L'honneur d'etre bien veritablement

Mousieur

Votre tres humble et tres obeissant serviteur.
J Le Maire

Monsieur Lée Ecuyer
à Challiot

(No 231½) Le Maire
8 Septr 78

Sir/ (No 231) Sept. 3. '78

As I thought you lived in Passy, I went there yesterday and delivered into the hands of Mr Franklin a letter for you from Messrs de la Goanere & Co of Corunna I should have been very glad to converse with you upon the interests of your Country in that part of the Spa:nish dominion. My friends who have hitherto done any thing in their power for the best advantage of your privateers tell me they are often obliged to restrain the effects of their zeal for want of an auto:risation which would give a sort of political importance and sanction to their intervention on behalf of your people. Mr Deane & with him Mr Franklin had promised to us, there are more than eight months, they should send them a particular commission, till they had received either a Commission from the Congress or a power to ap:point in the proper places Consuls for the protection of American Commerce. I beg leave to insist upon the execution of a promise which is of much less consequence for Messrs De la Goanere, than for yourselves. I hope

they

have hitherto discharged their duty with the strict:
:est fidelity and pledge my honour they will in any
time be found equal to the task they'll be charged
with and every way worthy your confidence

I am Sir with all due respect

Your most Humble
Obedient Serviteur

Le Brun

rue de Vaugerard
le 3 Sepr 1778

True Copy

Ludwell Lee Pr

Attest.

H. Ford. Secty

(No 231)

M. Le Brun to A. L.
3d Sep. 1778.

(~~No. 20.~~)

~~No. 20~~

1778

Mons.r Le Brun
claiming the
promise of Dr. L. & D.
of appointments in Spain

Copie de la lettre de Mrs Bezian Casadavant & Co à Mr le Maire: écrite de Bayonne le 5 7bre 1778

Monsieur (No 231 1/2) Bis

Nous avons fait passer à Mr Emery la lettre que vous nous avés adressée pour lui et qui accompagnait celle dont vous nous avés honnorés le 25 Courant. vous nous proposés de traitter avec nous pour Compte de la Virginie; et differents Objets que vous vous êtes Chargé de procurer à cette province; & pour l'Expedition des quels vous nous demandés de faire les avances des fonds Necessaires, en nous bonniffiant 6 p% de l'Interet de notre Argent Jusqu'à parfait payement, et que nous nous chargions de fournir un Navire Marchand Dont vous Nous passerés le fret à un taux qui Vous Conviendrait; sous la Condition que nous ne pourrons recevoir Notre payement que au Retour des tabacs que la dite province doit Expedier incessament pour solder les Engagements que vous aurés pris pour S.C. & que vous ferés Ratifier notre Traitté par Mrs Les Deputés —

Aussi flattés que reconnaissants de la preference que vous nous donnés; nous serons Enchantés de pouvoir Remplir vos Vües; Mais vous auriés dû Voter remettre, Monsieur le mémoire des Marchandises, Ou denrées, dont il sera Question, pour nous mettre à portée de savoir si nous pourrons vous les procurer avec facilité, au plus Grand avantage de vos Commettants

Cependant Comme nous Croyons qu'il n'y aura point d'obstacle à cet égard, puisque l'on peut trouver ici à aussi bon Marché, que dans tout autre port de France, toutes Les Objets propres pour l'Amérique Septentrionale. nous allons vous tracer les Conditions aux quels nous pourrions nous Charger de Cette Expedition 1º quelques Circonstances ne nous permettant pas de Courir des risques quelconques nous nous chargeons de Cette Expédition, sous la Commission ordinaire. C'est-à-dire que l'achat ~~tant~~ des Effets de la Cargaison que du Navire, et par conséquent les frets seront pour le Compte de La province de la Virginie.

2º Que nous ferons les avances de l'armement en Entier, sous l'Interet qu'il nous sera aloüé de 6 pr% L'An —

3º des que vous devés parvenir dans Cette partie de L'Amérique, que ce sera, Mrs Les deputés qui s'obligeront pour notre Remboursement dans les termes qui seront Convenus.

4º que néanmoins, s'il Convenait au bien des Interets de la province de Virginie de faire aboutir les tabacs quelle fera passer en europe, à bayonne, pour remplir vos engagements; En ce Cas quelle nous les adressera pour S/C. et que nous serons tenus d'en procurer la Vente au plus Grande avantage de la dte province en nous bonifiant La Commission ordinaire —

5° que nous nous obligerons de rendre Compte directement à M.rs Les Deputés de ces ~~ventes~~, dont le produit net nous serait appliqué, à Compte ou jusqu'à concurence de ce qui nous serait dû de nos avances.

Voilà, Monsieur, Les Conditions aux quelles nous traitterons, si, comme nous avons lieu de le Croire, nous sommes a portée de vous procurer ce que vous aurés besoin, & Certainement la province de la Virginie y trouvera plus son Compte que de toute autre manière.

Nous avons l'honneur d'Etre

Copy

(No 231½) Bés B Casadavant & Co to Le Maire
3 Septr '78

Sept. 5. 78

(No 232)

Sir

According to my last, I have now the honour of transmitting you Proposals for the chartering of a Vessel from here to the United States I should think that the 5th would be the most advantagious & the most convenient, if this should suit you, you will please to let me know it as soon as possible because the

owner

Arthur Lee Esqr.
one of the honourable Ministers
of the united States
Passy.

might give it to another in this or any other transaction I beg you would freely Command Your most obliged &

most devoted Servant

for J. D.[l] Schweighauser

Nantz 5 Sep 1778.

Schweighauser to A Lee
5th Sept. 78

(No 232)

Passi ce 5 7.bre 1778 N° 8

M. de Chaumont qui a recu le Billet cy joint de M. Du Lesport maitre des Requestes a l'honneur de l'envoyer a M. Lee.

M. de Chaumont a recu tout Nouvellement l'avis cy apres —

" on a remarqué icy avec raison
" comme une chose extraordinaire
" que les affaires du congres soyent
" confiées dans ce fait a un guernsien
" Nommé Dobrée dont la famille
" armoit dans la derniere guerre et
" sans doutte dans celle cy plusieurs
" corsaires. Son pere est meme chargé
" par le Roy d'angleterre d'examiner
" les prisonniers et les papiers des prises.
" ces gens la peuvent donc gagner a
" coups seurs avec les americains, l'un
" en armant pour eux, l'autre en
" faisant prendre les Batiments armés

l'honnorable Arthur Lee Ministre plenipotentiaire des Etats Unis de l'Amerique

"pouvez. le Congrès s'est adressé
" a un bon Suisse Nommé Schweighauser
" très honnête homme mais borné
" et qui est tout afait sur le retour
" il a marié une de ses filles a
" Dobée qui mene tout. avertisséz
" vos voisins des inconvénients qui
" peuvent résulter de tout cela, mais
" ne parlez pas de moy, dittes seulement
" que vous scavez cela d'un de leurs
" amis et des votres. ces bons
" americains s'adressent quelque
" fois bien mal, cela est desolant
" Je crois qu'ils ne connoissent pas
" bien les hommes. connoissance bien
" importante Neanmoins

M. de Chaumont envoya directement
a M. Lée l'avis cy dessus sans l'avoir
communiqué a Mrs Franklin et
adams c'est a M. Lée a en faire
ce qu'il jugera apropos. et je pourois
me dispenser de le faire d'apres la

maniere dont M. Lee a pris ou paroit avoir que j'ay transmis a M. Franklin. mais dans une affaires aussi majeure je ne veux pas avoir a me reprocher la moindre Negligence.

Reponse

Monsieur Lee a l'honneur de remercier Monsieur le Rey de Chaumont pour lui avoir expedier le Billet de Monsieur de Depart.

La Notte que Monsr. de Chaumont a trouvé bon de lui faire passer relativement a Monsieur Dobree est aussi anonyme. Mr. Dobrée a traité la derniere denonciation comme absolument fausse et ~~[illegible]~~. Il a demandé [d'être appellé en face avec] ~~[illegible]~~ faire ~~venir~~ son accusateur ~~[illegible]~~ pour le faire voir que les faits sur lesquelles

le soupçon est fondé ne sont pas vrais, et par consequent que le soupçon est une injure. Son demande me paroit tres juste; et c'est a Monsr. de Chaumont de nous mettre en etat de l'accorder. A L.
a Chaillot ce 5 de Sept. 1778

Pin S L[illegible]

(No 232½) Bis

My dear Brother, Philadelphia Septr. 6. 1778

Having written you very lately from hence it would have been unnecessary to write so soon again if some military events had not taken place that you may be desirous to know. The Count D'Esteing has no doubt informed his Court of his Manœuvres with the British fleet commanded by Lord Howe. We have here no accurate knowledge of this affair, but what we do know is as follows, that the Count, in conjunction with Gen. Sullivan who commanded the Continental Army, was besieging about 6000 English & foreign Troops that had retired within Lines round the Town of Newport on Rhode Island, when Ld. Howe appeared in the Offing. This suspended operations on the Island as the Count immediately reshipped his Troops and went out to fight the British fleet, which, tho consisting of many Vessels, was inferior in number of guns & weight of metal to the Counts fleet – The British fled & were pursued the first day, on the next day a furious Storm arose which saved Ld. Howes fleet by dispersing both fleets – The Count lost all his Masts before he fired a Gun,

and a Ship of 74 lost her foremost and Bowsprit — A partial fighting between single ships took place but nothing of consequence happened in this way — The Count returned to R. Island missing the Caesar of 74 guns and he carried in prizes the Senegal Sloop of War & a Bomb Ketch — We hear the Caesar has since arrived at Boston. The french Admiral determined to go to Boston (and refit his Squadron) which he did immediately — By this time Gen. Sullivan had approached within Musket Shot of the enemies Lines — The departure of the fleet, exposing our Army to the arrival of Succors from N. York quickly thro the Sound, and Ships also to cut off our retreat, determined a Council of War to raise the seige of Newport and return to the Main — The enemy upon our retreat came out, and a battle ensued, the consequence of which was victory on our Side as you will see by the inclosed Gazette — The Army was not off the Island when the last Express came away, but no doubt they would soon as possible return to the Continent. We hear that Succors were on their way from N. York thro the Sound for R. Island — Gen. Clintons Army is still shut up in N. York by the American Army which lays just above Kingsbridge at White Plains. Congress has not yet taken up the consideration of foreign affairs, but they soon will, I expect in a few days, when

I will write you more fully. We are very anxious here to know that Spain has acceded to our Alliance, and [illegible]ould be very pleasing that Holland had determined to open Trade with us. We impatiently expect to hear from Europe — I refer You to my last in which I request, with regard to Ludwell that you may either keep him with you, or send him to me, as your judgement and most perfect convenience shall direct - remembering that I have a large family, and that I wish to do them equal justice - That I am very willing to assist Ludwells genius & application as far as I am able to render him useful to himself and beneficial to his Country — Send our brother Alderman this intelligence with my love

farewell

Richard Henry Lee

My love to my dear Ludwell

We do not know whether the British fleet has ever returned to N. York in the whole — Reports are various — Some say they are all returned - Others that they have met with great loss —

1778

No. ~~18~~ 182

Letters R. H. Lee

To be used in

the Memoir of

A Lee 76. 7. 8

R. H. Lee to Arthur Lee
Sep. 6th 1778

(No 232½) Bis

(Copy Entered)
No 182.

Monsieur

J'ay fait selon vos desirs la conversion de votre effet de 22500 lt en mon Billet au 10 Xbre avec 3 mois d'interest a 4 p% l'an que j'y ai ajouté. je ne me preste surement a cet arrangement que parce qu'il convient aux votres, car j'ai des fonds moi-meme assez souvent dont je suis embarassé mais je suis flatté de vous prouver Monsieur tous les sentiments avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'etre

Monsieur

Votre tres humble et tres obeissant serviteur

Paris 7 7bre 1728

Cottin

7e 7bre 1778.

A Messieurs, les commissaires plenipotentiaires des treze colonies unies d'Amerique a la cour de france.

Memoire

Le sr. Gaiault de Boisbertrand, Lieutenant colonel de cavalerie Prevôt general des marechaussées de la province de Berry en france, fut au commencement du mois de May 1776. sollicité de passer en Amerique pour y servir dans les armées Continentales, par le docteur Dubourg, et un Mr. Penet agent du Congrés a Ne

Le Docteur Dubourg pour déterminer, le sr. De Boisbertrand, lui assura qu'il seroit porteur de dépeches Contenant, les dispositions du ministere de france a l'égard des Americains, que la cour de france lui accorderoit a cet effet un congé, et qu'il ne pouvoit estre accueilli qu'avec reconnoissance de la part du Congrés.
il devoit estre avancé en Amerique proportionement au danger ou il alloit s'exposer, et au rang qu'il laissoit en france, une somme de troiscent louis devoit aussi lui estre comptée a Paris.
Comme Mrs. Dubourg et Penet, etoient fort ocupés a chercher des officiers il leur proposa d'engager quelqun de son corps a le suivre, il choisit pour cela deux bas officiers qui avoient fait toutes les dernieres guerres d'hanovre dont l'un etoit armurier, il lui sembla qu'on lui seut tres bon gré de cette démarche.

quelque tems, apres un congé de la cour de deux ans lui fut remis alors le Docteur Dubourg lui annonça qu'on etoit dans l'impossibilité de lui donner aucune somme d'argent, mais qu'il seroit surement bien dédomagé en Amerique des dépenses que son voiage lui ocasioneroit. L'avancement plustost que l'interest etoit le motif du sr. de Boisbertrand, dailleurs, penetré d'admiration pour des hommes, qui avoient le courage de se soustraire a la Tyrannie d'un Empire puissant, persuadé que son zele le rendroit recommendable; et que la commission etoit importante pour le congrés il n'hezita pas a L'accepter.
Le Dr. Dubourg lui Communiqua les dépeches afin qu'en cas d'evenement, il fut dans le cas d'en rendre compte de vive voix.
il est aisé de concevoir que les préparatifs du voiage pour ses compagnons

et lui ont du estre couteux, d'autant plus qu'ils furent forcés de partir pour Nantes en poste, et qu'au lieu d'y trouver prêt le vaisseau qui devoit ou les attandoit il leur fallut y séjourner deux mois passés.

Mr. Penet assura le sr. DesBoisbertrand, que sa paie courreroit en Amerique du jour de la datte de son congé en france qui etoit sans appointements, qu'il seroit remboursé de tous ses frais, qu'on accorderoit une gratification a ses deux hommes, et même qu'il pouvoit alors lui faire telle demande qu'il lui plairoit, que cependant il avoit peu de fonds en france et des achapts considerables a y faire. le sr. DesBoisbertrand jaloux de montrer les motifs qui l'animoient refusa toutte précaution qui eut eu l'air de l'avidité, il se piqua d'agir par confiance et non de marchander, désirant prouver par la le respect qu'il portoit au congrés.

pendant l'intervale des deux mois du séjour a Nantes, Mr. Penet eut une discussion fort delicate au sujet d'un marché d'armes conclu avec les srs. Monthieur et la Thuilerie. Le docteur dubourg ecrivit au sr. DesBoisbertrand de visiter les armes, et de dresser un memoire qui seroit presenté a qui il appartiendroit. le sr. DesBoisbertrand fit un memoire ~~[illegible]~~, ou etoit detaillee la contestation, qui faisoit connoître que les armes qu'il avoit vue etoient tres mauvaises, qu'on se [illegible] de les livrer par ruse; et qu'on cherchoit a [illegible] Mr. Penet. il en resulta que le marché fut rompu, ce qui l'ose dire avoir valu une epargne de plus de douze mille livres sterling et ce qui lui parois plus important encore avoir par la evité que le congrès ne fut fourni et aprovisionné avec de mauvaises armes.

il reste encore entre les mains du docteur dubourg le memoire mentioné, et une lettre du sr. DesBoisbertrand, dans les quels Messieurs les commissaires peuvent prendre des renseignements sur cette affaire. le Dr. Dubourg a aussi conservé un double des dépeches qu'il lui confia.

le sr. DesBoisbertrand a vu une lettre de Mr. Deane a Mr. Penet dans la quelle Mr. Deane remercie Mr. Penet de la façon zelée et soigneuse avec la quelle il s'est conduit relativement a la fourniture de ces armes et lui promet d'en rendre compte au Congrés. X

Le fr. de Boisbertrand, et ses compagnons, mirent a la voile le 10 Xbre sur le hancok et Adam se regardant bien comme positivement au service de l'Amerique.

depuis ce tems ils n'ont cessé d'eprouver des traverses, ils ont d'abord (chose etrange) eté faits prisoniers par un corsaire Americain de Rodisland, le fr. de Boisbertrand separé de ses compagnons, et de son domestique que le corsaire prit a son bord, et envoyé comme prisonier a Bedfort pres Boston.

Le Comité de Bedfort lui accorda sa liberté, il se rendit immediatement a Boston d'ou il se mit en route pour philadelphie conduit aux frais du gouvernement de Boston. etant parvenu dan le jersey a 12 milles de Morristown ou etoit le General Lee avec une armée, il aprit qu'il se retiroit precipitament et que les affaires etoient dans un etat de crise assez violent. le desir et l'espoir d'etre utile lui inspirerent de l'aller joindre. il remit ses depeches entre les mains, d'un nommé Mr. Couteux; associé de Mr. Periet et envoyé par ce dernier au congrés pour une negotiation d'armes, ce Mr. Couteux a mandé avoir delivré les depeches en question au Congrés.

le troisieme jour que le fr. De Boisbertrand, etoit avec le General Lee ils furent touts deux faits prisoniers le fr. de Boisbertrand blessé legerement au bras, a la Tete, et assomé de coups de plat de sabre; le General howe le maltraita indignement de paroles, il le fit conduire dans une prison affreuse a New york d'ou il ne put obtenir d'envoyer chercher ses bagages et son domestique. il y resta deux mois couché sur le planché, sans une miserable couverture ni une chemise pour changer, nouri avec du biscuit moisi et du porc salé, le tout en tres petite quantité, on devine aizémant que la galle, la Vermine, et le scorbut en furent les fruits.

Le Capitaine du Corsaire Americain qui l'avoit arreté en mer et qui avoit gardé ses compagnons, sentant probablement qu'il les détenoit injustement, les mit a bord d'un Vesseau marchand Irlandois qui tomba entre ses mains, pour etre relachés a terre, le Vesseau Irlandois fut repris par une fregate Angloise, les pauvres françois conduits a Rodisland, trainés dans un sombre cachot pendant un mois et de la Transportés a New york dans la meme prison ou etoit le fr. de Boisbertrand.

ainsi reunis ils furent tous embarquées pour l'Engleterre le 14 fevrier 1777.

apres avoir passé cinq mois sur differents Vesseaux, ils furent commis dans la prison de fortun, ou les autres sont encore et d'ou le fr. De Boisbertrand, s'est echappé le 23 juillet de l'année courante 1778. il faudroit un volume entier

pour peindre les avanies, et les cruotés, qu'ils ont eu a souffrir entre les mains de l'orgueilleux anglois.

arrivé maintenant en france le sr. de Boisbertrand, se trouve privé de son emploi, le terme de sa captivité etoit inconnu lors de l'expiration de son congé et sa place a eté accordée a un autre.

depuis 29. mois que les premieres paroles lui furent portées pour l'amerique il lui en a couté tant en voiages et dépenses necessaires pour ses compagnons et pour lui, tant pendant le tems de leur captivité que pour se procurer sa liberté et sortir de l'angleterre dix mille livres de son argent, il a perdu une somme egale par la privation de ses appointements en france; il ignore entierement ce que sont devenus ses chevaux et [illegible] la partie de ses equipages qui etoit avec [illegible] lors qu'il fut pris [illegible], le reste etant [illegible] en amerique [illegible] evidement forcé a des renouvellements couteux.

il s'est conduit dans tout ceci avec un empressement et une bonne volonté qu'il seroit bien facheux de voir tourner si fort a son desavantage sans aucun retour. il ose donc esperer, qu'il sera de la justice de messieurs les commissaires plenipotentiaires des treize etats unis de vouloir bien prendre en consideration ses depenses, son zele ses longues souffrances et la perte de son etat en sa patrie.

il a servi seize ans en france premiere[illegible] dans l'infanterie, et les six dernieres années en qualité de lieutenant colonel de cavalerie, il croit ne point commettre d'indiscretion, en demandant qu'on lui assure d'etre emploié avec le rang de brigadier general dans les armées continentales. le general Lee s'etoit expliqué a lui qu'il ne faisoit aucun doute qu'il n'obtint ce grade, n'y a t'il pas maintenant quelques droits de plus.

quant a des dedomagements il s'en remet a la volonté de messieurs les commissaires il sera prêt a partir a leurs premiers ordres il souhaitte ardament fixer sa demeure en amerique, ainsi il regardera comme une grande faveur tout ce qu'on voudra bien faire pour lui, au sujet de l'etat qu'il y reclame et en aura la plus vive reconnoissance.

Gaiault de Boisbertrand

Paris 8th Septr 1778

Sir

According to your desire, We endeavour to give you the best intelligence in our power of the man whom we suspect to have given information to the people of Jersey of a great number of vessels that have sailed from the Ports of France bound to America. His name is Cannon or Kennan, he lived some little time at Nantes & has a Father now living at Couronne near Nantes.... When we arrived at Jersey, whither the Privateers who took us carried us, the Proprietors of them as well as many other people told us they had intelligence from him of every vessel which had sailed since June last, of every vessel about ready to sail and of every vessel and passenger that were to sail for four months then to come. This was about the 15th July..... Kennan came to Nantes about the Middle

of May.. After he had given them that infor=
-mation, he applied for the place of chief Engineer —
which made them suspect him to be a Spy, wherefore they
ordred him to quit the Island imediately, from whence he
~~who~~ went to Guernsey & gave the same intelligence, and
the same suspicions arising there, they put him in Prison
where he was, at the time we were sent to England, about
the 1st Aug.t last; The Account of his behaviour & fate
at Guernsey was given by Mr. Dobrée of that place to Cap.t
Gale... As soon as we landed in Jersey —
and the proprietors of the Privateers which took us inquired
the names of our vessels, one of them, Mr. Mallett, took a
Letter from his Pocket & looked over a list of Vessels —
sailed since June last, about to sail, & to sail in the —
Course of some weeks to come; in which list were the —
names of the vessels taken with us — At the top of the
letter we saw the word "Nantes" but cou'd not see the
name subscribed to the Letter. Mr. Mallett likewise told
us he had information of every vessel that sailed from
Nantes & Bourdeaux to America, but we cou'd not by
any means learn how. Mr. Dobrée of

Guernsey informed Capt. Gale that they had information of several vessels about to sail from Charleston, which information we imagine to have come from a Mr. Harrison lately arrived from So. Carolina, who on his arrival at Nantes was particularly curious to inform himself of every vessel ready to sail from thence; He is now in England. We have the honour to be with great respect

Sir

your most obedient
humble Servants

Wm. Gilbank

John Gale

Paris à LL. EE. M. les Plenip. des E. U. de l'Am.

La Haie 9 Sept. 1778.

Messieurs,

Je fus hier 2 fois chez le g— F—, & 2 fois chez notre ami. Voici ce qui se passa hier matin à l'Assemblée d'Hollande. Amsterdam présenta son avis ~~contre~~ pour la non-augmentation de l'Armée, afin d'être inséré dans les Actes de la Rep., ajoutant, que puisque par-là-même il alloit être imprimé pour l'usage de chacun des Membres, qui pourroient le lire à loisir, on ne vouloit pas exiger de la patience de l'Assemblée, d'en écouter présentement la Lecture. Le g— P— insista, que puisqu'elle alloit être insérée, elle devoit être lue; & qu'il alloit le faire en sa qualité: on lui répondit, que si cela ne fatiguoit ni le Lecteur, ni le reste, cela ne fatigueroit point les donneurs de l'avis. Le g— P— lut, & ne put s'empêcher de marquer par de violentes contorsions sur son siege, les passages fréquents qui lui déplaisoient. Le Corps de la Noblesse écouta d'un air refrogné, & déclara, qu'encore que l'avis qu'il avoit déjà fait insérer, pour protester ne quid resp. detrimenti capiat, &c. fût suffisant, cependant il se proposoit de faire insérer un avis contre celui d'Amst. — Dort alors prit la parole, pour se réserver de s'opposer à l'insertion d'un tel contre-avis, come contraire à la constitution, & de permettre seulement l'insertion d'un nouvel avis sur la chose-même, mais non come contre l'avis d'un autre membre de l'Etat. — Harlem, à son tour, déclara, que sans s'embarrasser de se rien réserver pour ou contre la forme, elle adhéroit quant au fonds à l'Avis d'Amst. — Après tout, l'Avis d'Amst. est inséré, come il devoit l'être. On va l'imprimer pour être distribué à tous les Membres. Il y en aura une centaine d'Exemplaires surnuméraires, dont j'en aurai un, que je me ferai un devoir de vous traduire & envoyer, Messieurs, en son temps. Notre Ami est tout à la fois content du succès, & irrité

contre le g— P. Il m'a dit que sa conduite n'est point celle d'un home d'Etat & fin Courtisan à la fois, come on l'avoit cru : que s'il avoit voulu faire ce dernier rôle tout en s'entendant sérieusement avec le Parti républicain, on lui auroit aidé à le faire : mais qu'il a perdu la confiance d'Amst., qui est persuadée qu'il fait & fera, par complaisance tout pour, &c. Que si on avoit encore quelques doutes là-dessus, je n'avois qu'à aller lui demander quelle réponse il avoit à faire à votre Lettre, Messieurs, & que je verrois ce qu'il me diroit. — J'ai dit que je n'avois point d'ordre pour cela à produire ou alléguer. — Eh bien, m'a-t-il dit, allez-y come de vous-même. — Je lui ai fait sentir que je ne pouvois pas me comettre ainsi, sans vous comettre aussi, Messieurs. — Il m'a observé de son côté, en souriant, qu'il falloit donc croire ce qu'il venoit de m'en dire. J'ai tout de suite fait part de cette conversation au g—F—, qui m'a approuvé.

J'ai l'honneur, Messieurs, de vous confirmer ma Lettre du 4 de ce mois, & d'attendre celui de votre réponse en conséquence. La partie de la Régence d'Amst—, que notre Ami se propose de tâter, c'est le Conseil entier de la Ville : car jusqu'ici il s'en est tenu aux Bourguemaîtres seulement. S'il réussit, il pourra s'ensuivre des délibérations & des démarches importantes. Le Parti avec lequel vous allez de plus en plus entrer en liaison, Messieurs, par mon canal, c'est, come en Angl.e, le Parti Whig ou républicain, avec cet avantage qu'il a sur l'opposition Angloise, que dans le sujet principal qui les divise présentement ici, la pluralité des suffrages ne peut rien contre lui. Nous somes donc présentement sur la seule bonne voie qu'il y ait, pour arriver au point d'éloigner cet Etat de vos ennemis, & de le rapprocher peu à peu de la France & de l'Amérique.

J'ajouterai historiquement, que Harlem & Dort ont pour Pen,

sionaires Mrs. Van Zeaberg & Boschart, deux homes de grande capa-
cité, bons républicains, & amis de notre ami.

Je suis avec mon respectueux dévouement, Messieurs

Votre très-humble & très-obéissant
serviteur, &c.

Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

Bilbao 9th Sepr 1778

Sir I redispatched the Schooner Newbury Capt Allen last week but he was oblig'd to return yesterday having Sprung his Mainmast I have Supply'd him with a New one & he sails again tomorrow

this week has entred here Two Prizes taken by the Brig Bennington Capt Willm Tuck belonging to Mr Tracy of Newburyport, the Prizes are both laden with oats bound to New york out but three days from Plymouth. the Prize master Informs me the Brig left Cape ann the 24th June there was then no News of the Count d'Estaing, am Sr with respect

Your Most Obdt Servt

Jn Emery

Doit feu Monsieur Thomas Morris de Nantes p.

1777 Juin	17	p. C. f. de diverses Drogues Medicinalles ... £	14437.15.1
Sepre.	10	p. mont. & frais de mes 2 traittes ci contre revenues a protest faute de paiement £6000.. Capital 47.4. frais	6047.4..
1778 Sepre.	9	p. Change sur £14437.15.1 du 17 Juin 1777 jusqu'a ce jour font 14 m. 2/3 a 1/2 % par mois	1058.15.3
	"	p. Cencerie sur £26437.15.1 a 1 %oo	26.8.8
	"	p. Ports de Lettres .... £	27.14..
			21597.17..

à Marsei[lle]

J'affirme le Comp[te]

Etienne Cath[...]

r Cie des etats Unis de l'Amerique Sep.le S/c.te Cour.t Avoir

1777 Aoust	8 p.r mes 2 traittes p S/c.te sur J. Sollier de Paris a Usance du 21 passé de £ 3500 / 2500 a 3/4 p°/° p.te	£ 5955.–.–
1778 Sep.re	9 p.r 8 Lettres sur Paris remises par m.r J. D. Schweighauser de Nantes ensemble £ 14437.15.1 negociées a 1/2 p°/° de perte	14365.12.–
	Debiteur pour Solde	1277.5.–
		£ 21597.17.–

...ille Le 9 Sept.re 1778
...mpte Cour.t cy dessus Sauf erreur ou Omission —

...thalant

A Versailles le 11. 7.bre 1778.

(N.° 233)

J'ai reçu Monsieur, la lettre que vous m'avés fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 7. de ce mois. Le S. Bietrix m'a rendu compte que d'après la Conference qu'il a eüe avec vous sur l'indemnité reglée à 30.tt par jour à chacun des 4. Navires de Dunkerque qui devoient porter de ce Port à celuy de Nantes, les effets d'artillerie cedés à l'etat de Virginie, il avoit ordonné à son Correspondant de faire décharger ces effets, et de payer le montant de lad. indemnité. Il n'est plus question maintenant que de déterminer la manière dont devra être fait le transport desd. effets de Dunkerque à Nantes. Dès que vous preferés que pour diminuer la dépense de ce transport, ils soient rendus de ce 1.er Port par Eau jusqu'à Doüay, et par terre de cette place à Orleans, où ils seront embarqués sur la Loire pour Nantes, je donne des ordres en consequence aud. S. Bietrix, et je mande, comme vous le desirés au Directeur de l'Artillerie à Dunkerque de ne délivrer, pour être porté à Nantes, que quatre Affûts au lieu de 14. que vous aviés demandés d'abord, dont 1. pour pièce de 24. ordinaire 1. pour Mortier de 8. pouces 1. pour pierrier et un pour obusier de 8. po. lesquels serviront de modele pour en construire d'autres à leur destination.

J'écris aussi à Nantes, pour faire délivrer suivant vos

M. Arthur Lée Député des etats unis de l'Amerique a Chaillot

désirs, à M. J. D. Schweeghauser Negociant en cette Ville les effets d'Artillerie qui y sont rassemblés pour le même état de Virginie.

J'ay l'honneur d'etre avec un parfait attachement Monsieur, Votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur.

Mis de Montbarey

1.

Prince de Montbarey to A. Lee
11th Septr 78

(No 233)

In Congress Sept. 11. 1778.

Resolved, unanimously, that it is essential to the Interest and honor of the United States that a Minister Plenipotentiary be without Delay appointed to represent these States at the Court of France.

Sept. 14.

Congress proceeded to the election of a Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of France, and the Ballots being taken

Doct. Benjamin Franklin was elected.

Extract from the Minutes

A true Copy attest. W. T. Franklin } (signed) Chas. Thomson sec.

R. H. Lee Esqr.

(No 257)

My Dr. Br. —

Paris 12 Sept. 1778.

(I am just arrived here from Germany & find the Bearer Mr. Gilby just set out with dispatches for Congress & have only a few minutes to write to you. I wrote you from Vienna 30th May & since have recd. Loudouns of May 16. last for which thank him & give our Love as I can't write now, having no time. I have recd. from you 25 Jan. last from G. Spring & 13 May from York Town, in the last you mention receivg. by Mr. Simeon Deane & Capt. Young mine of Nov. 24 & 30. — & 3. 6. & 18 Decr. but you say nothing of one dated the 28th. Feb. coverg. copies of what I wrote you from Nantes abt. a fortnight before, which was inclosed to the President of Congr. &c. with one to Congress, another to the Secret Committee, & another to F. L. Lee Esqr. all of the same date with yours, & this packet deliverd to Mr. Simeon Deane for which he gave a recd. but I do not yet learn that any of them have been Deliverd. Mr. Silas Deane went from hence as far as Versailles with his Br. Simeon when he set out with the Dispatches the begining of March & they stayed there together all Night. I hope you will inquire about these letters & if they have not been recd. — that the transaction may be sifted to the bottom. There was a letter from me also to Mr. Robt. Morris in [illegible] packet & of the same date viz 28 Feb. 78.

You will see by my letter to Congress of this date how far I have gone in negotiating a Treaty of Commerce with their High Mighti:nesses the United States of Holland &c — but it is really a lamen:table circumstance that I foresee the business will be obstructed & I am afraid fatally, because I have not powers to sign it & if communicated here, where the only power of signing is at present vested. it is most probable that intelligence of it will speedily get to England, as has for a long time past been the case, with all the most important & critical transactions relative to America. This channel which was fixed long before Mr Adams came, I am afraid is not yet obstructed. I think you must have reason to fix at least on some of the Agents & tho' one of the Great Patrons & Protectors is removed yet ~~the~~ one at least of the instruments remains & is enabled as much as ever to carry on the old Game. I see a thousand difficulties on every side but my whole object will be to accomplish the wishes of Congress & effectually serve my Country I know perfectly those that are on the Watch to catch at every step that they can torture to serve their selfish purposes, but I know too, that when a Man exceeds his Authority Success will varnish over every irregularity & sometimes blots out the remembrance of the most horrid iniquities — when a failure draws along with it not only censure for the single Act, but a load of reproach which is often unmerited. Tis most certain that if this negotiation is known in England or even to the Prince of Oranges party in Holland before its success is secured, that it will be effectually prevented [illegible] return to Germany in

abt. 10 daies to watch over my charge there, which for the present is at a Stand as you will see by mine to Congress, & it will be some time before anyone can possibly judge what turn affairs will take in that quarter; it seems to me most probable that the War will con=:tinue some years & that Peace will not arrive untill many bloody & terrible Battles are fought; however you may be assured I think, that G. B. will not get any more aid from Europe to prosecute her ridiculous War with America, which in fact I look upon as good as ended; However after tis finish'd Congress will nearly have an Augean Stable to cleanse in correcting the disorders ~~to~~ that must have crept in, & in punish.g the Corruption & Peculations that no doubt have been practised. Your Sons are well & promise as if they wd. not disgrace their Father or their name — My two Birds are thriving & Mrs. L. in a Month proposes to present me with another at least. You will have all the News from others & I must defer answer.g what you say abt. the Estate, but I think you shd. defer at least for 4 or 5 Years open=ing a land Office for selling or locating the Lands on the Ohio & in Virginia. I have sent from Holland 2000 Dutch Blankets & 3000 pr. Woollen Stockings on Acct. of the Secret Comme. —

My Best Love & wishes Attend you always.

Adieu W. L.

(No 357)

~~No 71~~

~~No 236~~

Wm Lee

Sep. 12th 1778

Pin 5. Llm.

My Dr. Sir (No 259) Sept. 12 - 1778

Mrs Shippen is confined to her
Room & I am afraid will loose ano-
ther patriot for me — [We have wrote
several letters to you on Gen Lees
situation informing you yt there
are many very good Officers in
Camp who approve of his conduct on
the 28 & are surprized at the Sentence
of ye Court Martial such as Gates
Knox, Lincoln, Parsons McDougal &c
You have all ye Testimonys &c before
you & I am sure will not do injustice
to so able an Officer — Gen L. says he
blames himself only for not ordering
a Retreat. — Yesterday Gen. Gates
Division marched towards Danbury.

We expect all to move in 2 or 3 days
The Intelligence from New York in-
-duces us to think that city will be
evacuated & we hear 5000 men have
landed at Dartmouth - What are our
Enemies going to do? Time will show.
Do send for Tommy if he is in Phi-
ladelphia & tell him as soon as
his Mamma is able we will come
to Phil.a w.ch I hope will be in 4 or 5 days
if he wants money tell him to bor-
row of Dr. Potts on my account.

We earnestly wish you may not
leave Philadelphia till we come &
you do health & happiness attend
you - Yours very affectionately

W. Shippen Jr.

Camp White plains
Sep.r 12. 1778.

Dr Wm Shippen Jr
Sep. 12th 1778.

(No 259)

The hon.ble Richard Henry Lee Esqr
of Congress
To care of Thomas Smith Esqr Ald
next door to Govern. Queen
4th street Philadelphia

Gen.l C. Lee

~~No. 420~~

Gen.l C. Lee

leave philadelphia till we come & you do health & happiness attend you — Yours very affectionately

W Shippen

Camp White plains
Sepr 12. 1778.

[No 234] Paris 13 7bre 1778

Monsieur

J'ay l'honneur de vous remettre cy joint deux etats d'evaluation l'un des effets actuellement rendus à Nantes et l'autre de ceux qui sont rassemblés à Dunkerque. je viens de recevoir des ordres du Ministre pour faire passer ces derniers a Nantes et je vais m'occuper de leur transport

Je suis avec Respect

Monsieur

Votre tres humble
et tres obeissant Serviteur
Bletreux

Monsieur Arthur Lee Deputé des Etats unis de l'amerique a Chaillot

(No 234) Bielrie to A Lee
13th Sepr '78

a Versailles le 13. 7bre 1778.

M. Lée m'a addressé le 12. du mois dr. Messieurs, un mémoire en faveur du Sr. Stevenson qui désiroit d'obtenir la permission de se rendre à la Guadeloupe pour y recouvrer les sommes qui lui sont dües; M. de Sartine, à qui j'en ai fait part, écrira aux administrateurs de cette Colonie pour qu'ils facilitent au S. Stevenson les moyens de faire ses recouvrements.

J'ay l'honneur d'être très parfaitement, Messieurs, Votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur

De Vergennes

Mrs francklin, Adams et Lée

(No 204½) Sept 13 - 78

Copy of a Letter from Monsieur le Comte de Vergennes Minister for foreign Affairs to his most Christian Majesty; to the Deputies of the United States of America

A Versailles le 13 7bre 1778

Mr Lee m'a addressé le 12 du mois dernier, Messieurs, un Memoire en faveur du Sieur Stevenson, qui desiroit d'obtenir la permission de se rendre a la Guadeloupe pour y recouvrer les Sommes qui lui sont dues.

Mr. de Sartine a qui j'en ai fait part, ecrira aux Administrateurs de cette Colonie pour qu'ils facilitent au Sieur Stevenson les moyens de faire

(No 234/2)

Count de Vergennes to the Commrs
13th Septr 1778

ses recouvrements

J'ai l'honneur d'être très parfaitment Messieurs, votre très humble et très obeissant Serviteur

Signé De Vergennes

Vrai Copie Arthur Lee

1778

Stevenson's debt

Messrs Franklin, Lee, & Adams

78

Dear Sir

Inclosed I send you an English news paper which though it Contains little contains all the news I have received from London - I also send you a Letter which I have received from Mr. Ellison, who with Mr. Saml. Wharton desire me to second the request it Contains; which however I would not do, did there appear any impropriety in it; but as it extends only to ascertain a fact, which is no secret, and which Congress has long since published, I do not see any harm that can result from it, & should you perceive none & be willing to comply with the request, I will according to Mr. Ellison's desire, engage a notary to Call any morning that may be convenient just to see the Date in question.

I am not yet able to walk as far as Passy or would have waited on you myself —

I am ever Dear Sir

Your most respectful

& Devoted humble Servant

Edwd. Bancroft

Monday Morning

14 Septr. 1778

15 Sept 78

Monsieur

Je profite des offres obligeantes du Monsr De Longchamp officier français avec Lequel je viens de faire Connoissance En passant a Calais et si je puis Vous Estre de quelle -
utillité jssy je Vous offre mes petits services et a touttes Les personnes que Vous m'adresserez Et particulierement a Madame Lacy e Vecka dont je viens de Recevoir par mr De Longchamp Une Lettre pleinne De politesse

Jay Lhonneur Destre avec Un Profond Respect

Monsieur

Votre tres humble et tres obbeissant serviteur
Ce 15 7bre 1778
Caymyn ayde major De Calais

(No 235 1/2)

Nantes Le 13. 7bre 1778

Monsieur

Je crois devoir vous prevenir que j'ai trouvé ici un Negociant qui se charge de nous faire nos uniformes, chemises, tentes, &c. Je n'ai rien voulu traiter avec lui que préalablement je ne vous en eu donné avis: Les conditions sont,
1o. qu'il ne percevra ses fonds pour ses dites fournitures qu'en retour des Tabacs de Virginie en France.
2o. qu'on lui allouera cinq pour cent de commission
3o. Six pour cent d'intérêt jusqu'a parfait payement.
4o. que vous mettrez votre approbation au bas du traité que je passerai avec lui

Vous sçavez, Monsieur, qu'il faut des Baudriers pour les Sabres qui ont été faits à Strasbourg, ainsi que des Gibernes; je peux vous les procurer ici et dans les environs, mais quoique cet article soit d'une petite consequence, les ouvriers qui les font,

Monsieur Lée Ecuyer à Chaillot

veulent être payés comptant; Je puis également faire établir les Selles des Dragons ~~dans~~ ~~ces environs~~ ici et ici mais on ne veut également les faire qu'argent Comptant; C'est à vous, maintenant, Monsieur, devoir si vous pouvez remplir ces objets, en mon particulier je n'ai rien negligé pour tâcher de traiter ces derniers articles aux mêmes conditions que je puis traiter les uniformes, mais il n'est point possible.

Je vous ai parlé dans ma derniere du 10. du Courant, d'un Navire de force qui porteroit tous vos objets en virginie, Je vous repete que c'est, à mon avis et même celui de Mr. Schweighauser, le parti le plus sur pour arriver à bien

Je vous prie de vous decider et de me donner avis quelles sont vos intentions, d'autant que l'armateur veut sçavoir à quoi s'entenir, parce-qu'autrement il l'armeroit en Corsaire, pour son Compte

Je viens d'ecrire à Strasbourg pour que l'on tire

un Certificat qui atteste que les Sabres qui ont été faits en cette dite ville et au Klingental, ne sont susceptibles de payer aucun droit et de faire rembourser à la Ferme qui a perçu la Somme de 2988^{lt}-17^{s}-8^{d}. pour l'entrée de france, d'autant que la Manufacture de Klingental a un privilege exclusif de faire traverser le Royaume à ses Sabres sans payer aucun droit. J'espere parvenir à faire rentrer ces droits qui ne sont point dus.

Je vais écrire en consequence à Paris et à la Douane de St Dizier

Je puis vous procurer les quatre Marechaux de Logis pour le regiment de Dragons que le Gouvernement de Virginie a demandé. Ces hommes ne seront point chers, et sont sans prétention, c'est à vous, Monsieur, à me marquer toutes vos intentions sur ces chefs de demandes.

J'ignore quel peut être le motif de votre silence à ne point me repondre, j'espere qu'à celle-ci, vous voudrez bien me donner vos ordres.

J'ai L'honneur d'être bien veritablement

Monsieur

Votre très humble et
très obeissant serviteur
J Le Maire

[No 235½] Le Maire Sep 15th 78

Comme j'allois fermer votre lettre, Monsieur, je reçois à l'instant une lettre de MM Berian Casadavant et Cie de Bayonne et dont je vous envoye, vous verrez par là que j'ai employé tous les moyens de vous procurer tout cequi vous est necessaire sans que vous soyez dans le cas de faire aucune avance, voici cequi manque à la totalité de vos objets.

1o. tout l'equippement du Regiment de Dragons, objet très considerable, 2o

2o. L'uniforme de 800 hommes d'artillerie, couvertures de laine, bas, chemises, souliers, bottes &a.

Si vous vous portez à traiter avec ces Messieurs, aux conditions qu'ils prescrivent, je vous prie de me le mander, je partirai tout de suite pour Bayonne, mais je vous prie d'observer que si vous vous decidez à cequeje fasse ce voyage, il me faut des fonds.

Vous voyez quejevous fourni toutes les occasions de procurer la totalité des besoins de L'Etat de Virginie, il seroit bien gratieux pour moi et pour vous de conduire en même temps la totalité de l'objet.

A Versailles le 15. 7bre 1778.

(N° 235)

Le S. Le Maire sedisant Capitaine de Dragons au service des Etats unis de l'amerique, m'écrit de Nantes, Monsieur, pour que je fasse joindre aux effets d'Artillerie rassemblés en cette Ville et destinés pour l'état de Virginie quatre affuts de côte d'un nouveau modele, qui seroient construits à l'arsenal de cette place. Je vous prie de me marquer si votre intention est que je fasse fournir ces affuts; auquel cas j'en comprendrois le prix dans l'état que j'aurai à vous adresser des differens effets qui auront été délivrés pour le Compte dud. état de Virginie.

J'ay l'honneur d'etre avec un parfait attachement Monsieur Votre très humble et très obeissant Serviteur.

Le P.ce de Montbarey

20.

M. Arthur Lée Député des Etats unis de l'amerique à Chaillot

Prince de Montbarey to A Lee
15th Sepr. '78

(No 235)

Exam. [illegible] (No 2357) Bis

[My dear Brother, Philadel.a 16th Septr. 1778

This will be delivered you by the Baron Arand who has served some time in our Army, and who now returns to France, with leave, on account of his health –] Your two letters of July the 3d. & March 2d. came to my hands two days ago – Where the latter has so long been, I do not know – I shall observe the caution contained in the former, and give Loudon the same – I do not know that we have erred in this way upon any occasions of consequence – I must here repeat my former advice, not to use the book cypher you have hitherto done, unless where you have reason to suppose the Bearer of the letter will deliver it him=self – It may be good against his curiosity, but not against that of many others who by Carmichaels treachery have got possession of the key to this mode of corresponding. You were not mistaken in the union you supposed would be formed here between Carmichael & 115 b XXVIII [Deane] – They go hand in hand & are closely allied in forming 156 a XIX [faction?] – Nor have they been unsuccessful in their wicked labors – But I trust, not in a manner to avail them much, or to 209 b X [inconvenience] you. The 327 a VI [scheme] is not yet completely opened, but

before we part with 1156XXXVIII [Deane], we shall endeavor
to get as much truth out, as will save the public from
injury — I wish we had all the evidence on your side —
But Mr. Stephenson is alone here, and we must call
for his evidence to fix Carmichaels charges against
1156XXXVIII [Deane] when the former was at Nantes. The
necessity of immediately appointing a 282aXXXI [plenipotentiary?] for
our 436VIII [ce] has occasioned a vote for the 134aVI [Doctor], and
his credentials & instructions will soon be sent. In a few days
the other 108aIXs [Courts] will be determined on — 4266XXVIII [your]
and our 72aVII [brother] I think will not be 3346XXIIer [se]. but I
assure you that envy, selfishness, and 1156XXXVIIIs [Deane's] arts
have created a strange spirit among many, and will
require on your parts great wisdom and much 806XI [c] in
all your 976XV [conduct?] and 106aVI [co] — The 134aVI [Doctor] is as I alway
thought him, I am not in the least disappointed or informed
by any thing 1996XXII [w] that I hear of him. We do not know
that he has 4256XXVIIer [written?] any thing against 4266XXVIII [you]
but I strongly 3656XXXV [suspect] it from the conduct of some
men. However, virtue will prevail over vice in the end
if tolerable prudence support the former. The 134aVI [Doctor] is
2606I [old] and must soon be 756XXXVd [account?] to 36aXXX for his
244aXXIo [misdeeds?]; therefore 60aXV [bear] with him, if possible — In order
to provide for 1156XXXVIII [Deane] I suppose, it has been proposed
to have a 101aXXXV [Consul] 173aXXXI [General?] in France, but this
I think will never prevail — 2606XXII [of] in each 285 [port]
aXXVII of consequence, and appointed by 99aXVII [Congress] the
public good demands, and this will probably be done.
But 1156XXXVIIIs [Deane's] pride nor avarice will let

him in here — [I wish our brother may succeed in either of his missions — I fear he will in neither until these Courts have taken decided parts with regard to their contemplated war — The arrival of Byrons Squadron has given the enemy superiority at Sea over our friends, but we hope it will not long continue so. The Count is at present refitting safely in Boston from his damage in the Storm, where he will soon be ready — The English fleet has been off that harbor but are now off Rhode Island — The movements in New York denote an intention soon to abandon that place, I suppose to strengthen Canada, Hallifax & the West Indies. Our accounts are now very good that the enemy lost between 12 & 1500 killed & wounded in the late battle where they were defeated on Rhode Island — I pray you my dear brother not to keep Ludwell a moment longer than it is convenient for you — a well grounded knowledge of eloquence, Civil & natural Law will fit him for pursuing in Virginia the study of the laws of Engd. & his own Country — Besides, the justice I owe my other children will not allow very great partiality in expence on any one or two — Yet I would not withhold what may be necessary for good foundations — But my income is chiefly paper money, and that you know will not reimburse you in Europe or serve my Sons there — Can you contrive the contents of this letter to William, I know not whether to address

(No 235 1/2) Rec

R. H. Lee to Arthur Lee.

Sep. 16th 1778 (No 180.)

him at Vienna or Berlin. The Bark you
kindly sent me has been of great service to me,
but I shall want more next year, therefore pray
send me some, if possible, directly to Virginia.
I shall be glad of any valuable new publications
whether in France or England —
Not being forewarned of the time, and it being
so long since Sim. Deane's arrival that I cannot
recollect all the letters you sent me a list of — I
did receive several by him, but I do not remember
those for Owen or Pringle — I believe the rest came.

I sincerely wish you health, happiness &
success — Adieu

Richard Henry Lee

My best love to my boys, brother & sister —
Remember me affectionately to Mr. Adams.

No. 180

Letter fm R. H. Lee Sepr 16 1778
[illegible] 4th Dec [illegible]
[illegible] affairs
[illegible]

Sir   Nantes 17th: Septr. 1778

Since my Arrival at this place I have been endeavouring to procure a passage amongst the many Vessels which are on the point of sailing for different parts of the Continent, but hitherto without Effect, as they are all so full of Passengers as not to be able to accomodate any more.. There is indeed but one Continental Vessel amongst them, (the Baltimore, Capt. Reed) and he, as well as the rest, so full of eleventh hour Gentlemen, that he cannot take me. The convoy appointed for them and now in the River, has given Notice to sail on the 24th. inst...

As I must of necessity wait till another occasion, You will not I flatter myself think it unreasonable in me to request of you, Sir, & the other Commissioners to supply me with any moderate Sums of money I may want till an Opportunity offers, by

sending an Order to Mr Schweighauser for that purpose

Intelligence is this moment received that a Vessel from North Carolina is arrived at Paimbœuf, who brings an Account that Capt. Whipple & the vessels under his Command fell in with a fleet of West India men & took a great many of them & their Convoy a Sloop of 18 guns particulars of which I imagine you will receive from the Agent here as he has received Letters of that Event.

I shall endeavour immediately to secure, if possible a passage in that Vessel, which will sail as soon as possible as the Frigates are expected from Brest in about 15 or three [illegible] which are [illegible] together with an armed transport [illegible] to be [illegible] to the [illegible]

I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to favour me [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Your [illegible]

I [illegible]
Your most [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

(N°238) Sept. 1778

Monsieur

Je me trouve honoré des deux agréables Votres des 7. & 12. Cour.t — Je dois recevoir ce soir de M.r le Commissaire d'artillerie les articles que vous m'avez marqué devoir m'être livrés pour les Etats de Virginie. Lund.i proch.n je pourrai vous donner la Notte en quoi le tout consiste qui doit aller aux environs de 210. Com.s & je serai attend.t vos resolutions pour les expeditions ayant appris avec grand plaisir l'heureuse arrivée à Paris de Monsieur votre frere à qui je presente mes tres humbles respects

Comme vous ne m'avez parlé mettre la Somme d'argent

à avancer à Mrs Brooks. Je n'ai pas osé
refuser leur demande mais à l'avenir
je demanderai préalablement vos ordres

J'ai reçu par un Mr venu de Paris avec
Capn Gale des depeches de votre part
faisant les duplicata de vos precendentes
que j'ai remis au Capn Read parti ce matin
avec une enveloppe à celles que vous
m'avez recommandé, & je vais envoyer ces
derniers depêches par un autre Navire

Il vient d'en arriver un de la Caroline à mon adresse
qui rapporte avoir rencontré
à 15. degré de longitude les fregattes La Providence
Le Boston & le Ranger, qui avoient pris
toutte une flotte de Navires anglois
allant en l'amerique

Quant a l'affaire de mes Calomniateurs
Je vais les suivre d'aussi près que je
pourrai et veux esperer qu'enfin leurs
malices

projets Seront confondu

J'ai l'honneur d'être très parfaitement

Monsieur

Votre très humble et obt servitr

J. Dl. Schweighauser

Nantes 17 7bre 1778.

(No 238)

Schweighauser
17th Sept. '78

Monsieur

Monsieur A. Lee
Ministre Plenipotentiaire
des Etats unis de
l'amerique – à
Chaillot
rue Bataille No 5. près Paris

(No 289) Sept. 17. 1778

Je soussigné Marchand fourbisseur de la Ville de Strasbourg qui a déja eu l'honneur de fournir au Congrès des Etats Unis de l'Amerique Septentrionale la quantité de 2600. Sabres m'offre de fournir dorénavant à Mrs. Mrs. les Deputés dudit Congrès les Sabres aux prix cy après

Savoir

Le Sabre de Dragons de Virginie conforme au model cacheté que S. E. Mr. Lée a en mains tout monté avec lame prise de la Manufacture du Klingenthal à	13	10
Ledit Sabre avec lame de la manufacture de Solingen superieure en qualité à celle du Klingenthal	13	
Le Sabre de Grenadiers de Virginie aussi conforme au model cacheté avec lame de Klingenthal à	9	10
Ledit Sabre avec lame de Solingen	9	
Le Sabre d'artillerie de Virginie avec la Chape à recouvrement et lame de Solingen	9	6
Ledit Sabre avec lame du Klingenthal	9	16

Le Sabre d'Huzard en Cuivre; le fourreau garni en Cuivre conforme au model des troupper de la france avec lame de Solingeathal | 16.

le dit Sabre avec lame de Solingue | 15. 10.

Le Sabre d'officier de Dragons même model de ceux de Dragons, sur dorrée double en or moulû tout monté .... | 48.

Le Sabre d'officier de Grenadier et artillerie meme model de Grenadier sur dorrée double .... | 36.

Le Hausse col d'officier en Cuivre surdorrée, avec l'euson en argent très fort aux armes des Etats unis | 12.

Le Casque de Dragon tout monté la Callotte et le Cimier en Cuivre le Bourlet en peau de Chien de Mer avec sa Crinière; le tout conforme à ceux des Dragons de france ..... | 10. 10

Le Casque d'officier de Dragons sur dorrée en or moulû; le Bourlet en peau de tigre | 60.

le dit Casque avec son Bourlet en peau de Panthère | 57.

Les prix des susdittes articles sont arrangés payables au Comptant en lettre de Change à 15 jours de vue à mesure que la quantité que l'on conviend se sera delivré à la personne préposé à ce sujet sans aucune deduction quelconque ; les frais transport Droit et acquit qui resteront à la Charge de Commande ainsi que les frais d'emballage dont je me charge cependant sous condition de remboursement

Si l'on souhaitoit avoir les lames de la Manufacture de Solingen lesquelles sont préférables dans leurs bonne qualité à celles du Klingenthal, et cependant meilleure marché ; il faudroit faire ~~passer~~ l'expedition des sabres par la Hollande pour être Embarqué dans un port de mer Voisin ; à cause des grands Droits d'Entrée de France auquels les dittes lames sont sujets.

Je promets en outre que toutes les Articles de Commission M. M. les Deputés voudront m'honorer seront conditionné et fini à dire d'Expert pour être Inspecté par à leurs satisfaction par telle personne qu'ils souhaiteront nommer à ce sujet.

fait à Paris ce 17. 9bre 1778.

Mannberger
Marchand fourbisseur

(No. 239)

Mecumbage[illegible]
17th Sepr '78
A/c - vs State of Va

A Review of the Contracts entered into by the [...]
and Williams: compared with that entered into by The Honble [...]

To Mr. Montieu for 10,000 Suits S. Cloaths @ 37	370000 " – " –
To Mr. Holker for 15,000 Suits do. @ 36" 10" 9	548060 " 7 " –
To Mr. Williams for 9448 Suits do. @ 36 " –	330128 " – " –
£	1248188 " 7 " –

To Mr. Bondfield for 1000 Suits do. @ 32"	32000 " – " –
But deducting 6 p Ct. for prom payment amt. to	1920 " – " –
And reduces the Cloaths to 30" 0" 2 p Suit & the sum total to £	30080 " – " –

From the above Statement, it appears that the United States of [...]
the Cloaths purchased by Mr. Holker from Montpilier to Bou[...]
more than they would have cost on the Spot.

True Estimation[...]

Chaillot Sept. 17th [...]

Honble Messrs Franklin & Deane, with Messrs Montieu, Hollner
le Mr Lee, with Mr Bondfield of Bourdeaux

At 6"10"9 p Suit, more that what was given by the Honble Mr Lee in 10,000 Suits come to	69541"13"4
At 6"10"7 do do 15,000	97937"10"–
At 5"19"10 do do 9448	56509"5"4
£	223988"8"8

f America, exclusive of the Expence risque, and Loss of Time, in bringing
deaux, and from thence to Nantes, have paid 223988"8"8.

from the Originals.

H. Lord Sec

r 1778.

Richard H. Lee Esqr. Bilbao the 18th Septr. 1778.

(No 258)

Honoured Sir

As have directions from your worthy Brother our very good Freind the Honourable Arthur Lee Esqr Commissioner of Congress at Paris to send you by every opportunity from hence 2 pounds of the very best Jesuits Bark: Capn Brazilla Smith of the Schooner Hawke Bearer hereof being the first that has presented itself of latte, we have the pleasing satisfaction to informe you that have punctually delivered to said Master a small packadge directted for your goodself containing the above Two pounds of the very best Jesuits bark that could be found in the place This Vessell being Bound to Boston have Requested our freind Mayor Generall James Warren Esqr to Receive said Packadge from the Master & follow your directions therewith, of cource be pleased to Instruct him on the Subject & be assured that you shall have an Equall Remmittance by every Vessell

In hopes soon to Receive seen very favourable advices from your Quarters have the pleasure to Subscrive

Honoured Sir your mt. obt. hble Servts

Joseph Gardoqui & sons

To

The Honble Richd. H. Lee Esqr

Memmber of Congress

at

Congress

Favd Capt. Smith
Via Boston
1 D 6

Boston Jany. 18 1779
Forwarded by Yr Hbl Servt
Isaac Smith

J. Gardoqui & Sons
Sept. 18th 78
(No 358)

18: Septr 1778
Gardoqui & Sons
[illegible] Bilbao [illegible]
answered

Nantes Sept. 19th 1778

Sir

Being informed, that some malicious person, or persons have been and are still endeavouring by the most infamous means, to deprive Mr. I. D. Schweighauser of his good name; and being apprehensive that the intention is to prejudice him in the estimation of The Honble Commissioners, we think it an act of justice due to injured merit, to acquaint you, that we have employed, and are now employing that Gentleman to transact business, for our friends, and ourselves to a very large amount. the satisfaction that they, and we have received from his assiduity, honour, and integrity will induce us to pursue every means in our power, after our arrival in America to serve him, being confident that as a Merchant, he most justly deserves

public and private confidence. He has had, and continues to transact, a very considerable part of the business to, and from America, and we have always heard the Americans who have had any connection with him, speak of him in the most respectful terms.

We have the honour to be

Sir

Your most Obedt. Servts.

Danl. Blake

John Lloyd

Arthur Lee Esqr   Bilbao the 19th Septr 1778

Honoured Sir

We have the mortification to continue deprived of your allways Esteemed favours since what had the honour of saluting you last with on the 29th ult.o therefore agreable to what promised you therein; haveing tho' with some dificulty prevailed on Cap.t Brazilla Smith of the Schooner Hawke to spare us what room there was left on Board after we had shipt what goods we had for the Owners of the Vessell: We have the pleasure to informe you that have shipt on her On Account of the old plan Seven Cases containing 4795 pair of very fine Strong Shoes: Three Bales with 1995 pair of good Strong Stockings & 60 Balles containing 1521 large Blanketts the whole ammounting to rials 129228 & 16 mrs of Vellon, as you will see by the within Invoice & all tho we have ready a considerable parcell of those Articles are sorry to say that she could take in no more; the Vessell is Bound to Boston of course have sent the bill of Loading to Major Generall James Warren Esq.r to receive those goods & follow therewith the dispositions he may have from the Honble Elbridge Gerry Esq.r as done last year

We have by this opportunity had the pleasure to pay our respects to your worthy Brother the Honble Richard H. Lee Esq.r adviceing him our haveing delivered to Cap.t

Smith a small Packett with 2 pounds: of the very best
Jesuitts Bark to the care of said Mr Warren, as such
hope it will safely reach his hands.
We have the pleasure to informe you that on the 16th
Instant arrived safe to our address in 33 days passage from
Pottowmack Virginia the Schooner Escorpion Capt Benjamin
Ives with a cargoe of Tobaco; she it seems unluckly
mett Just off of our Barr with an American Privateer
whose Master tooke from him the only News paiper he
Brought; however he affirmes that the Count D'Estain
had taken Two English Frigattes & had drove on shoar
the Roebeck M. of W. that the French fleett was before
New yorke & that Generall Lee was under arrest.
how farr those news may be True you'l doubtless will
be better able to Judge.
This Schooner has a letter of Mark & the Master Intends
to fitt out & make a cruize of about a month after the
N. Flanders than returne here & take in his homeward cargo
as such hope shall also be able to send something by her
We cordially salutte you & are
Honoured Sir your most obt.ble Servts.
Joseph Gardoqui & sons

(N° 241)

Nantes le 19. 7bre 1778.

Monsieur

Après plusieurs recherches que j'ai faites pour remplir la totalité de ce qu'a demandé l'Etat de Virginie, je viens de trouver deux negociants de cette ville qui m'offrent de fournir ce qui nous manque, relativement aux besoins de cette Province: on m'offre deux ans de Credit, avec 6 pr % d'interêt de la Somme totale; on n'exigeant point d'autres titres que celui de mettre votre approbation au Bas des traités que je passerois avec eux. je mettrai toute mon attention, si cela vous convient, pour que mon oeil veille à ce que vous soyez pourvu de belle et bonne qualité et avec toute l'Oeconomie possible, d'allieurs je ne finirois rien avant que je vous en eusse communiqué les prix. voici les articles cy detaillés, qui ne sont point encore faits et que vous pouvez verifier par le double memoire que je vous ai remis signé de Mr Patrik Henry gouverneur de la Virginie et par une instruction particuliere que l'on m'a donnée et que je vous ai communiquée, 1° 800 uniformes complets, pour un regiment d'artillerie en drap de bleu de Roi, vestes et culottes, doublure de même couleur, boutons jaunes, empreinte de deux Canons en Santoirs, couronnés d'une foudre eclattante, sortant d'un nuage, écrit au tour, artillerie of Virginia, les revers des habits, parements et collets de panne noire, cet uniforme doit être couvert d'un Surtout de grosse toile; et un pentalon de Coutil en forme de guêtre, Le Chapeau bordé de Galon de fil jaune, Le bonnet doit être bordé de noir avec un Ecusson d'artillerie. 2° un Sac de peau pour porter le butin du Soldat. 3° trois Drapeaux, bleu de Ciel, marqué des treize couleurs du Continent d'un pied et demi de hauteur, le milieu sera empreint d'un nuage d'où sortiront les attributs de l'artillerie, dans les coins une Couronne renversée, environnée de fleurs ardentes, il doit avoir à ces drapeaux deux gros glands en franges d'or. 4° 1600 paires de Souliers avec un fer sous le talon et des clous sous le bout de la semelle. 5° 1600 paires de bas dont 800 de laine et 800 de fil. 6° 1600 chemises. 7° 800 Couvertures de laine. 8° 800 cols de panne noire avec les boucles en cuivre jaune. 9° 130 Canonieres. 10° 800 Gibernes. 11° 800 baudriers pour les sabres. 12° pour ce corps, il faut 8 bas officiers choisis, sçavoir,

Monsieur Arthur Lée Ecuyer à chaillot

trois ouvriers en bois, trois en fer, deux artificiers Bombardiers bien instruits dans les differentes manoeuvres d'artillerie. 13°. un fondeur connoissant l'alleage des Metaux pour toutes les bouches à feu de fonte et de fer. 14°. deux armuriers et deux fourbisseurs. 15°. deux ouvriers de forge bien instruits pour faire les boulets et Bombes 16 deux officiers d'artillerie, article indispensable.

Pour le Regiment de Dragons, a proportion du nombre des 5 a 600 hommes pour ce corps, uniforme de Drap vert dragon, revers, colets et parements de panne noire, doublure chamois, vestes et culottes chamois, de plus une culotte de peau, boutons blancs, empreinte de deux sabres en sautoir, couronné d'une foudre éclatante, sortant d'un nuage, écrit autour Dragoon of Virginia, les manteaux de Drap blanc, # avec 6 brandebourgs de galon de laine chamois de chaque coté, un surtout pour menager l'habit, un sarot de grosse toile, un pantalon de même toile, les bonnets de drap vert, bordé de galon de laine chamois, avec des grenades en forme d'ecusson, les chapeaux unis, les Casques en Cuir jaune poli, crinière noire, frisée, le tour de peau de chien Marin, cols de panne noire, avec les boucles de Cuivre jaune, souliers, comme cy dessus, bottes, eprons, chemises, bas, également comme cy dessus, gibernes, Baudriers de sabres, plumets communs dans des prix de 10 à 12^s pour mettre sur les Casques, guidon de bleu de Ciel, marqué des treize Couleurs, d'un pied de hauteur, le milieu sera empreint d'un nuage d'où sortiront des grenades éclatantes, les coins empreints d'une couronne renversée d'où sortiront deux grenades, environnées de fleurs ardentes +

avec les capuches pour couvrir le casque.

+ il faut le Marechaux de logis pour les aides à Ingresse, le regiment de Dragons que je vous prie de faire par le nom.

Equippement du cheval, selles avec les garnitures, brides, bridons, filets, bridons d'abrevoir, licols de revues, licols d'ecurie, et martingales, porte-fusils, avec les deux Courroys, Etrilles, Eponges, brosses, porte Manteau du Dragon de Drap vert, bordé de galon de laine chamois, housse et chaperon, du Ruban de queue pour les chevaux en galon de laine chamois.

J'ai oublié les trompettes et les tentes, à l'artique de l'equippement du Dragon

Autres Articles, portés par le memoire dont je vous fais mention cy dessus, et qui ne dont point encore traités. 1°. 8000 —

Gibernes d'infanterie; 2°. 2000 fusées à Bombes et aubuses, 3°. 30 cuirasses, 4°. 12 caisses de tambours en cuivre avec quatre peaux de rechange pour chacune. 5°. 4 Niveaux. 6°. 2 graphomètres, 7°. 4 planchettes pour tirer les plans. 8°. deux Etuis de Matthematthiques bien complets, 9°. 1. rame de papier à dessiner. 10°. 6. Batons d'encre de chine. 11°. 24 crayons de la première qualité, à dessiner. 12°. 30 pinceaux à dessiner, 13°. un assortiment de couleur propre à laver des plans. 14°. 4. chaines d'arpentage. 15°. 3 longues vues de la meilleure qualité. 16°. 4 assortiments d'outils necessaires aux artifices de Guerre.

Voila, Monsieur, Le detail de ce qu'il faut pour le gouvernement de Virginie; qu'il a demandé et que j'ai par écrit. C'est à vous maintenant à prendre quel parti que vous jugerez à propos, dans cette circonstance; en mon particulier je desire que vous vous decidiez pour traiter à nantes, vous en fournissant tous les moyens, veuillez, Monsieur, repondre à tout ce que j'ai l'honneur de vous Marquer, ainsi que sur l'article du Navire que l'on me propose et dont je vous envoye copie de L'armateur. C'est un Navire en Etat de porter tous les objets en Virginie: il marche superieurement, il sera monté de 28 Canons en batterie, 2 de chasse, 2 de retraite, ce qui fait en tout 32 canons, il sera muni de 76 coups +de munition par Canon et cent trente hommes d'Equipage, selon mes foibles lumieres, vous n'avez point de plus sur moyen pour que tout arrive à bien en virginie, que de prendre un navire de force, et avec du nerf et de la bravoure, on ne craint aucun Corsaire, pas même une fregatte. observez, je vous prie, que la saison où je partirois en 9bre ou Xbre, Les mers sont très mauvaises, raison de plus pour ne point être intercepté par des vaisseaux de force car il y en a très peu qui tiennent les mers dans cette saison,

(N°241)

Le Maire to A Lee
19th Sep. 1778

Si au contraire vous faites partir sur différents Navires tous ces objets, il y a quoi à parier que la majeure partie sera prise par la nombreuse quantité de pirates qui courrent les mers, d'ailleurs vous me permettrez de vous observer, que cela seroit mal vu par la raison que ce seroit appauvrir un Etat, pour en enrichir un autre. Au reste si vous suivez le parti que je vous propose, vous êtes assuré d'être Convoité par une Fregatte françoise Jusqu'au debouquement du Cap finister. trop heureux si je puis, Monsieur, vous ~~persuader~~ prouver mon zele et vous persuader que je n'ai d'autre interêt que de servir utilement les Etats unis auxquelles je suis totalement voué, et à qui j'ai donné toute mon affection. C'est dans ces Sentimens que je vous prie de me Croire penetré.

J'ai l'honneur d'être bien veritablement

Monsieur

Votre très humble et très obeissant serviteur.
J Le Maire

Nantes Sept. 19th 1778

Dear Sir

Having by mistake omitted to frank my letter to you at Frankfort, I was afraid it would not have came to your hands. I have therefore particular pleasure in finding that you have received it. I am much obliged for your introduction to your brother Francis L. Lee Esqr. and present you many thanks for your friendly wishes.

The unjust, base, and villanous attack made upon Mr. Dobrée & Mr. Schweighauser, must have originated in hearts capable of the blackest crimes, and those who countenance such assassin like proceedings are not in my opinion less culpable —. I hope with you, that the power of a certain sett of Men is near an end, if it is not, the Welfare and prosperity of America will be in danger.

Mr. Izard will acquaint you of my disappointment, and intended plan

Mrs. Lloyd presents her Compts. and joins in sincere assurances of regard

… with him who is

Dear Sir

Your most Obed^t Servt,

John Lloyd

Nantes Sept. 19th 1778

Dear Sir

Having by mistake omitted to frank my Letter to you at Frankfort, I was affraid it would not have come to your Hands, I have therefore particular pleasure to find that you have received it. I am much obliged for your Introduction to your Brother Francis L. Lee Esqr and present you my thanks for your friendly wishes.

The unjust, base, and villanous Attack made upon Mr Dobreé & Mr Schweighauser, must have originated in hearts capable of the blackest Crimes, and those who countenance such assassin like proceedings are not in my opinion less culpable. I hope with you, that the power of a certain sett of Men is near an end, if it is not, the Welfare & prosperity of America will be in danger.

Mr Izard will acquaint you of my disappointment, and intended plan. Mrs Lloyd presents

her Compt. and Joins in sincere assurances of regard with him who is

Dear Sir

Your Most Obt. Servt.

John Lloyd

A Monsieur

Monsieur G. Lee

chez

Monsieur A. Lee

Rüe Bataille No. 5

Chaillot près Paris.

True Copy from the Original

H. Ford Secy.

Dear Sir (No 360) Caroline Sepr. 19. 1778.

Before I left Wmsburg, from whence I have just reached home, I had yr. very agreable favr. of the 7th. - when I was contemplating the Possibility and not improbability after the Counts being driven by the Storm into Boston, of Genl. Sullivan's Army being water bound, if not conquered by a Superior force the Enemy were at full liberty to throw on the Island, to be informed he had been able to give them a drubbing & then get off wth. so little loss on the whole, was indeed most consolatory & matter of joy. must have we heard of the reinforcement to the Enemy's Fleet, but nothing certain, nor do I find it is yet confirmed with you. pray what is the state of a War between France & Britain? A Capt. arrived from one of the French Islands affirms he heard the French Declaration read there; his Letters speak of it as an Order Issued from that Court to attack the British Ships &c wherever met with, on Account of the treatment of their Frigate in the Channel. Our Dragon & Tartar sailed on tuesday last - I don't know their destination, the people in Williamsburg Stott & say they do. goods have risen considerably on the report of the War being declared - I am fatigued & can only add that I am

D. Sr. Yr. affe. & Obt. Servt.

Edmd. Pendleton

(~~No 315~~)

(No 360)

~~No. 315~~

To

The Honble Richard Henry Lee Esqr.

Phila.

Sept. 19. 1778

Edmd. Pendleton

Esqr.

20 Sept 78

Monsieur

Ce n'est que pour accuser la reception de votre Lettre, et non pour y repondre, n'en ayant point Le tems, que je prends La plume — Elle m'a fait un vrai plaisir, il y avoit Longtems que je desirois davoir de vos nouvelles je fus charmé de voir que Lorsque vous m'ecriviez vous etiez content de votre ~~situation~~ etat phisique et moral, je souhaitte quil soit toujours Le même — j'ai passé deux mois en routte j'ai fait un voyage des plus heureux et des plus agreables — il y a ici bien des inutilités qui absorbent tout mon tems — je soupire apres quelques moments de Loisir que je vois aprocher comme la marmotte qui convenu avoir terre — je vous repondrai un peu plus cathegoriquement — je noublierai pas votre Comission tandis que sans compliments je suis tout a vous de Jonignan

Turin ce 20 7bre 78

My Dear Br. Paris Septr. 2d. 1778.

By my letter to the Comee of this date you will see that I have deliver'd to the Commissioners here a Copy of the treaty which I had negotiated with Holland & which I have strong reasons for believing I co'd have soon brot to a conclusion, had my authority from Congress been sufficient — but what will be the issue now may be easily foreseen, — The overweening self sufficiency of one, & the latent plans that every one supposes have been form'd of contriving Mr. D—'s return to A— with other similar motives will all conspire to interrupt the success; — besides, very unhappily, things are minutely communicated to a person, that in my opinion ought not to be trusted with any thing — of this person Congress has been inform'd, I understand having formerly given intelligence relative to the Treaty with France. If this business with Holland is communicated in its present Stage to Our Enemies or their Emissaries in that Country, of which they have a great number, it will infallibly be obstructed: All this I expect, however I have done my Duty & hope Congress will approve my Conduct.

I am entirely of opinion with you relative to the Estate & will send the proper instruments as soon as they can be got ready which is attended with more difficulty than you can well im-:magine in a Strange Country – the Season is now so far advanced that it will be impossible to get the documents to you time enough to proceed on the business before Winter twelve months, as abt. Christmass is the only time for such a business to be done. I wish to know accurately when & how the principal money is to be repaid that is put into the Continental Loan Offices, & if in the mean time the billets given for Cash can be sold or converted into cash easily & without loss. Pray answer me in this as soon as possible & send me the rest of Congress proceedings, have only recd. one vol. for which I greatly thank you. My Station is quite out of the Way for sending News papers, pamphlets &c but I un-derstand you get them from hence. I return to Germany imme-diately & loose no occasion of promoting the wishes of Congress in that quarter. The Virginia business is a heavy one. I am afraid the Ministry here will not do what the State expected & without them the business cannot be accomplish'd in this Coun-:try but on such terms & in such a manner as is shameful & horrible to think of. The first demand however is nearly accomplish'd but there is 4 times as much yet to be done. I am now pushing the Subject as far as I can. Your Sons are well – We have not any material News & I have only time to assure you of my continued & steady Affection. Adieu W.L.

Wm Lee
Sep 21. 1778

Richard Henry Lee Esqr
Member of Congress from the State
of Virginia
at Congress

11 dolrs & 5/2

20
7
140
60
200

140
30
420

210

140
67
207

Wm Lee
Septr 21. 1778

Tom

Paris 21.st 1778.

My dear Brother

By my letter to the Committee of this date you will see that I have delivered to the Commissioners here a copy of the treaty which I had negotiated with Holland and which I have strong reasons for believing I could have soon brought to a conclusion, had my authority from Congress been sufficient but what will be the issue now, may be easily foreseen The overweening self sufficiency of one and the latent plan that every one supposes has been formed of continuing Mr. D—'s return to Holland with other & similar motives will all conspire to interrupt the success; besides things very unhappily are minutely communicated to a person, that in my opinion ought not to be trusted with any thing — of this Congress has been informed I understand, having formerly given intelligence relative to the treaty with France. If this business with Holland is communicated in it's present stage to our enemies, or their emissaries in that country, (of which they have a great many) it will infallibly be obstructed. All this I expect, however I have done my duty & hope Congress will approve

my

my conduct.

I am entirely of opinion with you relative to the estate & will send the proper instruments as soon as they can be got ready, which is attended with more difficulty that you can well imagine in a strange country — the season is now so far advanced that it will be impossible to get the documents to you time enough to proceed on the business before winter twelve months, as about Christmas is the only time for such a business to be done. I wish to know accurately when & how the principal money is to be repaid that is put into the Continental loan-offices, and if in the mean time the billets given for cash can be sold or converted into cash easily & without loss. Pray answer me to this as soon as possible & send me the rest of Congress proceedings, having only received one Vol. for which I greatly thank you —— my station is quite out of the way for sending newspapers, pamphlets &c but I understand you get them from hence. I return to Germany immediately & shall lose no occasion of promot-
-ing

-ing the wishes of Congress in that quarter.

The Virginia business is a heavy one — I am afraid the ministry here will not do what the State expected & without them the business cannot be accomplished in this country but on such terms and in such a manner as is shameful & horrible to think of. The first demand however is nearly accomplished, but there is four times as much yet to be done. I am now pushing the subject as far as I can. Your sons are well. We have not any material news & have only time to assure you of my continued & steady affection.

W. L.

R. Henry Lee Esqr.

(NB original sent by Mr. Gilbank
1st duplicate by Capt. Dick of Virga.
2d. which is the present, sent from
Frankfort to Paris to be forwarded from thence.
Saml. W. Stockton Secr.)

Honble Arthur Lee Esq

Bordeaux 22 Sept 1778

Sir

On receipt of the Orders Received from Passi under date 11th Inst contents "yours of the 8th Inst we have receiv'd we wish better Health to Captain Ayres and a safe passage to his Vessel which is at Sea before now no doubt if not however she is to Sail forthwith without further orders signd B.F. J.A. —— how could they entertain an Idea of her being sailed. I never received the least Instructions to that purpose and certainly could not suppose I would take upon me to send her off without she left this the morning after the receipt of the above orders say of 18th and I expect ere this is clear of the Land. I gave passage to as many Americans as she could conveniently carry over her Compliment some poor men come from England after 9 & 12 months Imprisonment, Captains Mates of Vessels and others who were without a Sixpence to whom I advanced the few necessary Stores they wanted Blankets &c

I have before me your favour of the 9th I shall transmit you the receipts for the two bills of Parcels No 3 & 5 so soon

soon as received they were Cumbrous Goods and the people live up the River the receipts in my Book I cannot take otherwise. you will see by my General letter to day to the Commissioners who have wrote as well as as you on the Commissions I charge that I shall Acquiesce with what may be decreed the Commissions are more than what are usual at this place but the Buisness duely executed is deserving of it; you are not unacquainted that to conduct your Concerns in a manner to give every Satisfaction required engages a very circumspect and minute attention a Correspondence Minute and exact and for every transaction a triplicate in writing to other Buisness. notice if you please the papers of the Boston you there see fourteen Sheets being only One Sett, One to the Committee of Correspondence One to the Captain and one I am obliged to keep make together fifty ~~four~~ six Sheets all which are Copied in an Invoice Book to which there is to add my Entries in the wast Book & Journal & Ledger and to that the Correspondence attendant all which duely performed I promise you merits a

full

full Commission — there is a prospect of your affairs enlarging to a degree that may make so large a Commiss. too great a compensation. I wish to cultivate your Confi=dence my views are not to burthen the States nor do the States desire to reduce their servants for such we properly are to suffer by their services. It is an honor & a Credit the charge I hold from you, and I hope to add in the end a profit by the Concerns that will in consignment fall into my hands.

I have sent by the Diligence the Samples you requested say One Suit Regimentals they have been much exposed in my Chamber they thereby appear not so fresh as the parcel Shipt but is sufficient to satisfie your views the Cloth is a Blue twild Kersey it will be esteemed in America being both viewly and serviceable. The Stockings are Strong tho' course but Good for the service and at twelvepence half penny Sterling are certainly not dear in any Part some of the Shoes Shipt are stronger than the Sample. I had only that pair remaining unpackt the other are ready for Shiping —

The Convoy that will take the Ships for America Arrived here only two Days past she waits to the 1st of October and will then proceed with the Ships ready the Ships on board of which

which are the five Bales as ꝑ Bill of Loading inclosed an in which I propose to ship the remainder of the Ship will sail under this Convoy ——

The Fair of Bordeaux begins the 1st October the quantity of Goods brought from every part of the Kingdom as also from the other Nations under the influence of being free of Duty gives great opportunities to execute on advantageous terms any Commissions you may approve. it is a good time to purchase to lay up if not immediately wanted. pray how is the Navy board supplied with Clothing is there any particular Agent in that Department or does the Business Center with the Continental Agent the Consumption must be very Great — if at this time it should prove inconvenient to you to lay in any quantity from confinement of Funds and that at three four or Six Months it would be more easy to you to execute on your Acceptance of my Bills at any of them Dates I would concert measures to purchase all you might chuse to have bought at this time and raise the funds to answer the Paym till the time come round. I shall write you in Acct of Duties &c ꝑ next post I am with sincere attachment

Dr Sir Your very Hble Servant

John Bondfield

(No 242)

Nantes le 22. Septembre 1778

Monsieur

J'ai reçu l'honneur de la Votre par l'entremise de Mr.
Schweighaucel qui m'a remis la somme de huit cents quarante
deux livres, pour payer les frais de l'inspection de 8000 fusils
dont je vous envoie quittance; je n'ai pu vous envoyer celle du
Charpentier et autres petits faux frais qui se montent à la somme
de quarante Livres parceque les particuliers ne savent pas signer.

Le premier Memoire que je vous ai envoyé par ma lettre
en datte du 8 Septembre, ne se montoit qu'à la somme de 776.# 16s;
mais j'ai été obligé de faire remonter une quantité de fusils qui
m'ont occupé six journées pour chacun des ouvriers, qui fait
monter la totalité de la somme à 877# 4s et je n'ai que celle
de 842#, j'ai payé celle de 35# 4s que vous m'êtes redevable;

Vous me marquez que c'est tout ce que vous pouvez avancer
d'argent, observez je vous prie que de tout cet argent, je n'en ai point touché
le sou pour moi; vous n'ignorez cependant point, malgré toute mon
économie, je ne peux point vivre ici et ailleurs en suivant mes opérations
sans faire de la depense et vous me reduisez dans la dure necessité

Monsieur Arthur Lee Ecuyer à Chaillot.

de contracter des dettes ce qui deviendroit desagreable pour moi, cette depense regardant le service du Continent, nommement pour l'Etat de la Virginie: vous me dites dans votre lettre que les frais de cette inspection devait être remboursés par Mrs. Cenet et dacosta; vous me permettrez de vous dire que je suis totalement devoué aux interêts de la Virginie, ces frais ne regarde nullement ces M.M., outre les ouvriers que j'ai employés, ces M.M. m'en ont fourni et qu'ils ont payés pour une plus forte somme que celle ci dessus.

Je vous envoie ci joint le projet et prospectus, de l'armement du Nre. qui doit porter toutes les articles en Virginie; comme c'est un objet des plus essentiels, je vous prie d'y donner toute l'attention — qu'il demande étant le seul moyen de pouvoir rendre tous les objets en Virginie; si vous ne prenez ce parti, il y a cent a parier contre un que tout sera pris par la nombreuse quantité de Corsaires qui sont au large, il ne suffit non seulement d'assurer, mais il faut que les objets que le gouvernement a demandés puissent se rendre, je vous repete que c'est apauvrir un Etat pour en enrichir un autre que de ne pas prendre toutes les precautions necessaires dans une circonstance aussi critique

L'armement que je vous propose est dans le cas de ne craindre aucun Corsaire et sera même dans le cas de faire face aux fregates de la premiere force; et veuillez je vous conjure être persuadé de mon zele et du desir que j'ai d'arriver avec tous ces objets.

J'ai L'honneur d'Etre bien veritablement

Monsieur

Votre très humble et
très obeissant serviteur
J. Le Maire

Je viens de recevoir, Monsieur par le courrier d'aujourd'hui une missive d'un particulier a qui je dois 400.tt, je vous prie et vous demande en grace de m'avancer cette somme, vous ne plus m'obliger en me rendant ce signalé service; d'autant que vous savez que je suis en avance de 977.tt sur les depenses que j'ai faites pour suivre mes operations, ne me refusez point au moins a titre de pret avec promesse de vous les rendre avant de m'enbarquer, et vous me pargnerez par là un desagrément dont je vous en conserverai pour la vie la plus vive reconnoissance.

H. Le Maire

(No. 247) Le Maire. Sep 22d - 78

Danbury 23 Sept. 1778 (102)

Dear Sir

The Bearer Doctor Johnson being delayed by a Storm, I have time to own the receipt of your Obliging Letter by Major Biggelow; lest that should not have been the case, I have desired Mr. Andrew Adams to shew You my letter to him, for whom, it was equally intended with himself; I look upon the present moments as the most Critical to America of any that have passed since the War. If the Enemy should Succeed in a Sudden and Bold Stroke upon The Town, and Harbour of Boston, all their misfortunes are repaired, and

Our

103

Blooming prospects destroy'd &c. if we take a
Decisive part, & arrive with the Army in Time in
the Neighbourhood of Boston; we may make
Glorious finishing of The War. Flour is the
alone the Article I dread the want of. I
foresaw this in the very begining of June &
wrote the 3d. of that Month to Congress to
pass the immediate Formation of a large
Magazine in the Eastern States; when you
consider Sir, That Our Army, The French
Fleet, The prisoners of War, and all the
Militia it may be necessary to call to
defend Our Country, and Our Allies, are

to

be fed from One Magazine, you will allow that ought to be large one, and collected in Time; for All our sakes move Heaven, & Earth, to the Accomplishment of this one thing necessary, It being a Natural consequence of our Alliance with France, that we ought fairly to Assist each Other with the most Salutary Counsels; I hope Congress will not Neglect the Opportunity, which the late Engagement of the Compte D'Estaing with the French Fleet, affords us to shew them Our Sincerety. The improper length of the Ships Guns of the French, which renders that Nation inferior to the English, when equal, & even Superior in every other respect, might be in:

troduced

105

with great propriety to the French Ministry without Offending their Pride; & it clearly appears from Maudits Hand Bill how much England dreads such Counsels — when you write to Mr. Arthur Lee, present him with my Affectionate respects; when the Campaign is Finished, I shall answer his Polite Letter in a manner, I hope, that will give him the Utmost Satisfaction — remember me to all those you know to be friends. & believe me with the truest Attachment and regards —

Dear Sir

Your much Obliged

Humble Servant

Horatio Gates

Honble:
R. H. Lee

107 / 106 + 107

General Gates

Majr. Gen. Gates
[illegible]

To
The Honble
Richard Henry Lee
in
Congress

A Versailles le 23. Septembre 1778.

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 18. de ce mois. Je n'ai pas répondu à celle du 30. Août, parceque je me suis expliqué verbalement sur l'objet qu'elle renferme, avec vous, M. Franklin et M. Adams, et que d'ailleurs, Le Roi ayant presentement un Ministre plenipotentiaire auprès du Congrès, il est naturel que des explications de cette nature passent par son canal.

Pour ce qui est des plaintes que vous portez, Monsieur, au sujet des droits que l'on a exigés à Bordeaux sur des objets destinés pour les Etats-unis, je crois devoir vous observer que la règle veut qu'elles soient presentées par les trois Commissaires conjointement, et que nous ne saurions admettre des Offices que l'un ou l'autre passeroit separement et sans le concours de ses Collegues au nom des Etats-unis et pour des objets qui peuvent interesser leur service.

J'ai l'honneur d'être très parfaitement, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant Serviteur

De Vergennes

M. Lée

168

Fredericksburg in the State of New York - Sep: 23. 1778

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 6th Inst. did not get to my hands till the 18th — It found me at our Posts in the Highlands, on my circuit to this place — & at a time when I had neither leizure or opportunity to write to you. —

I am so thoroughly impressed with the necessity of reinlisting the army, that you may depend upon it nothing in my power to effect it, shall be left unessayed. — Instructions, and money are in the hands of every Brigade to this purpose, and I have directed weekly returns to be made of the progress. — An advance in Silver Dollars, of part of the bounty money, might facilitate the business of recruiting, but I conceive that it would be attended with very pernicious consequences — not from the cause you speak of — to wit, discontenting the other Soldiers — but another source, namely opening the eyes of the whole, and setting them to reasoning upon the real difference between Specie & paper — at present, they know that every comfort, and necessary of life is insufferably dear, but do not inquire much after the causes, and having no specie among them to fix the comparison by, do not attribute it to the depreciation of the paper money: but let them have ocular proof that they can purchase as much with one Silver, as

with

with four or five paper Dollars. and have forestallers, and the disaffected at work among them in purchasing up the Specie, while the latter class of people are painting in lively colours the difference, using at the same time every art in their power to poison the Mind, and sow the seeds of discontent and they judge of the event. — at any rate, I think the experiment would be dangerous, and ought not to be tried but as the dernier resort, lest by obviating one evil, a greater is involved. —

The designs of the Enemy, to me, are misterious — indeed totally incomprehensible — that they are preparing for some grand Manœuvre, does not admit of a doubt, but whether it is for an operation on the North River — against the French Squadron at Boston (by a junction of their Land and Sea force) — or a total, or partial evacuation of the United States, is not easy to discover — I believe myself that they are waiting orders, which probably with arrive in the August Packet, to determine their plan, and in the mean while are preparing to remove wholly, or in part, as they shall be directed. but, as their motions are equivocal, & with apply to either of the above cases, I have strengthned the Posts in the highlands, and thrown the Army in to such a position as to reinforce them readily, at the same that we are advanced to the Eastward, & can move on in different columns, by different Routs, if the operations of the Enemy should call us to that quarter. —

I am Dr Sir Y^r Most Obed^t. & Hble Servt.

G^o Washington

110

P.S.

I think it likely that Mr Custis (& Colo: Bassett.) may be in Phila at the time this Letter may come to your hands—if so, I will thank you for causing to be delivered to him, a Letter herewith addressed to your care.

Yrs

G: W—n.

111

Septr. 23. 1718

P. W

350	220
200	80
550	300
	250
	550

Observations on Mr. Montieu's Accounts.

The Agreement between Dr. Franklin Mr Dean & Mr Montieu is for 6000 Suits of Uniforms of which the Coats are to be of bon drap de Berry bleu de Roy, at 27tt a Suit. Mr Montieu in his Account charges for 10000 half of the Coats of which are bleu & half brown, (a much cheaper Cloth) & for each suit he demands 38tt.

Mr Williams says in his Report on these Uniforms, (in his Letter to the Commissioners dated Decr 23. 1777 & which I never saw till Mr Deane's departure) — "I think Mr Montieu should either take them on his own Acct or make you an abatement in the price

according to their quality. The smaller sort may possibly be pushed off among the smallest of our troops, tho' I think they should have been larger & were it a business not yet compleated I think they should be refused."

Mr Monteiur in his Acct. charges for 10,000 pair of Woollen Stockings at 30lt a dozn. tho' that Article is expressly excepted in the agreement, & the exception signed separately by the contracting Parties, the Sum being just double the usual price.

Mr. Monteiur has produced

no Receits to shew the delivery ~~of the delivery~~ of the Goods for which he demands payment; & which cannot be allowed in any event, till those Receits are produced.

Passy Sept.r 25th. 1778

A. Lee

P.S. In the charges made on the Cloths furnish'd by Mr. Holker &c for ten thousand Suits half blue & half brown, the former is stated at 69062.tt the Latter at 65000. which makes a ~~difference~~ deduction in the brown of ~~3948~~tt 4062

The Sum therefore overcharg'd in Mr. Montieu's Acct supposing the Cloaths to be good, is

1tt on every suit more than by agreemt — 10,000tt

The difference between blue & brown — ~~3948~~ 4062tt

~~13948~~tt 14062

[illegible] as [illegible] to the agreemt [illegible] even as good as those

furnis[hed] from Bordeaux at 32[lt] [illegible] the Coats & Jackets were all of blue Cloth, it will be fully suffi[cient] to allow him for the 10000 [illegible]

at 32[lt] each [illegible]	320,000
Deduct for the Difference of blue & brown	4062
Total for the Uniform Cloaths	315938
His demand is	380,000
Difference	~~63,048~~ 64062

Sept[r] 27th 1778 — A. Lee

[illegible] 10 [illegible]

[illegible] 10 [illegible]

NB The [illegible] Mens woollen Stockings [illegible] by M[r] Bonfield from Bordeaux by order of the [illegible] Lee, at 15 & 15. 10 the doz. Specimens of [which] are duly inspected & may be then compared with those furnished by M[r] Montieu.

Maillot

Hon[ble] Arthur Lee Esq

Bordeau 26 Sep[r] 1778

Sir

Referring to what I had the pleasure to write you the 22 & 23 Instant this serves principally to advice you of my having drawn 23 Ins[t]. in favor of Mess[rs] Beaujon Peltel & C[o] at Twenty Days date for eight thousand five hundred and fourlivres 19 sols 5 deniers, balancing thereby the Invoice & account Current transmitted the first Instant to which you will please to give due honor ——— The Samples I sent to the deligence I took back and have sent it by Mr Deguille who set off 24 and expect will be with you ere this

We are in Dayly expectation of Intelligence from America but none as yet on this Coast

I am with Sincere Attachment

D Sir

Your very H[ble] Serv[t]

John Bondfield

P.S. I received a Letter from Mr Joseph Wharton he writes me

me his Finances are very low and desires me to advance one hundred pounds on his drafts on Philadelphia

I am obliged to ~~shun~~ avoid having any concerns of Interest with Mr Wharton at the same time I should be sorry to see him in an abject State ~~with you~~ give me leave to request of you to sound his Situation and if he is devoid of Cash for his Subsistence to let him have as from yourself Fifty Pounds for which I will Credit your Account this only in case is Situation realy requires it

FB

Nantes le 26 Septembre 1778

(N° 243)

Monsieur

J'ai eu l'honneur de vous marquer dans ma dernière qu'il y avoit un Negociant de cette ville, très riche dont la probité est connue, qui m'a offert de fournir ce qui manque a remplir la totalité de ma Mission pour l'Etat de Virginie et dont je vous ai fait le détail, il s'engage a me mettre a portée de partir sous six Semaines ou deux mois au plutard; comme c'est un avantage considerable pour le gouvernement de Virginie, j'espere que vous voudrez bien ne pas laisser echaper une occasion aussi avantageuse que celle là, Je vous prie de me marquer quelles sont les raisons pour lesquelles vous ne repondez point à mes lettres.

J'ai l'honneur d'être bien veritablement

Monsieur

Votre très humble
et très obeissant serviteur
J Le Maire

Monsieur Arthur Lee Ecuyer à Chaillot

A Monsieur

NANTES

Monsieur Lée Ecuyer
Rue Bataille près Paris
en son hotel

Chaillot

8

Le Maire
26th Sepr '78

No 243

Dear Sir

I beg leave to recommend to you my Nephew, who proposes to make the best of his way to Visit his Native Land; for that purpose inform Him whether He is likely to have soon any good Opportunity. He will not stay above a day or two at Paris but go directly to Nantes & wait thereabouts untill his Embarkation. The Gentleman who accompanies Him is an Inhabitant of Nantes who has been here some time to learn the Language. He is Ambitious of being Known to You.

I have reason to think your particular Friend proposes to see you in the Course of Next Month, however if He can be of more Service here, inform Him.

We are under the greatest Anxiety about the Event of the Meeting of the two Fleets. by the last accounts they were in Sight. the French being to the Windward & therefore having the Choice of Battle. our Stocks rose on the Certainty of Conquest.

I have seen a Letter from Commiss^r Eden, which tho written in the familiar Stile & Character shewed evident Marks of Political Despondency. He is in Rapture with the little of the Country which He has seen, which He think

is too Noble a One to be lost either by Mischance or Misconduct.

Iam D Sir

Yours Most Aff Sincerely

John Pringle

Sir

I have the honour to inform you that the Bill you remitted me the other day for £ 20000 .. is now in Cash, & passed to the Credit of the Account des Etats unis particuliers.

According to your desires I here inclose two fresh Copies of the sayd Account, done up in the manner you prescribed, for which reason you can have no objection in approving either of them & sending it to me back. It is besides for me a ~~little~~ Piece I can not dispense with.

Herewith I likewise take the Liberty to include a Memorandum of the Payments I have made for you since, that you may make what Alterations in it you please. & after you have done it I shall draw it out by way of an Account currant. Under date of the 17 of June I payd you 1200 .. upon a simple receit wherein you desire me to pass it to your Account. I presume it is for the

Account General where I have passed it. as likewise two other Sums of £800.# each. the one under date of the 9th ~~inst~~ of July. & the other under date of the 8th. of August. I beg the favour to know whether I am ~~raight~~ right in passing these Sums to the General Account.

At different times I have disbursed some Trifles the Memorandum of which I have the Honour to inclose likewise in order to have your orders about it

Mr. Lee, your Nephew, will find here my best Complimts. with a Ticket for next friday's Ball at Passy. if you want any. I shall be happy to lett you have those you may want.

I shall have the Honour of waiting upon you in a day or two respecting Mr. Wm. Lee's Servant on attendant. I am with great Respect

Sir

Your most ob. St.

Fd. Grand

Paris 7bre the 27th. 1778.

(No 243)

Observations on Mr Montieu's Acct. Sept 27 1778

The agreement, between Dr. Franklin Mr Deane & Mr Montieu, is for 6000 Suits of Uniforms, of which the Coats are to be of bon drap de Berry bleu de Roy at 37# a Suit. Mr Montieu charges for 10000 in his Acct, half of the Coats of which are blue & half brown (a much cheaper Cloth) and for each Suit he demands 38#.

Mr Williams says in his report on the Uniforms (in his Letter to the Commissioners, dated Decr the 23 1777, & which I never saw till Mr Deanes Departure) — "I think Mr Montieu should either take them on his own Acct, or make you an abatement in the price according to their quality. The smallest sort may possibly be pushed off among the smallest of our troops, tho' I think they should have been larger & were it a Business not yet compleated, I think they should be refused."

Mr Montieu in his Acct charges for 10,000 pair of woollen Stockings at 30# a dozen, tho' that article is expressly excepted in the Agreement, & the Exception signed seperately by the Contracting Parties, the Sum being double the usual Price.

Mr Montieu has produced no reciets to shew the delivery of the goods for which he demands payment, & which cannot be allowed in any Event, till those reciets are produced.

PS. In the Charges made on the Cloth furnished by Mr Holker &c, for ten thousand Suits, half blue & half brown

(No 224) Observations on Mr. Montieu's Acct. Sep: 27 1778

the former is stated at 69062, the latter at 65000,
which makes a deduction in the price of 4062.

The Sum, therefore, overcharged in Mr Montieu's Acct.
supposing the Cloaths to be equally good with those
furnished by Mr Walker, is

One Livre on every Suit more than by agreemt.	10,000 "
The difference between blue & brown	4,062 "
	14,062 " "

But as they do not answer to the agreement, and are
not even so good as those furnished from Bourdeaux at
at 32lt a Suit, the Coats of which were all of blue Cloth, it
will be fully sufficient to allow him for the 10'000.

At 32lt each	320,000.
Deducting for the difference of Colour	4,062
	£315,038 " "
His demand is	380,000 " "
Difference	£64,000 " "

N.B. The best Mens woollen Hose were shipt by Mr
Bondfield of Bourdeaux, by order of the Honble Mr Lee at
15lt and 16lt 10s ⅌ Doz. Specimens of which are daily expected,
and may then be compared with those furnished by Mr
Montieu. Sept. 27th 1778.

True Copy (Triplicate) H. Ford Secy

1778

De par le Roy

Sa Majesté voulant faire connoitre ses intentions, soit sur les prises que ses sujets pourront conduire dans les ports des Etats unis de l'Amerique, soit sur l'admission dans ses propres ports des prises faites par les Corsaires Americains, et comptant sur la parfaite egalité qui a fait la base de ses engagemens avec lesdits etats unis elle a ordonné et ordonne ce qui suit.

Article 1.er

Il sera permis aux Corsaires françois de conduire et faire conduire les prises faites sur les ennemis de Sa Majesté dans les ports des etats unis de l'Amerique pour les mettre en etat de reprendre la mer, ou pour

y être vendues définitivement

Article 2.ème

Dans le cas d'une simple relâche, les conducteurs des prises seront tenus de faire, devant les juges du lieu, une déclaration contenant sommairement les circonstances de la prise et les motifs de la relâche, et de requérir lesdits juges de se transporter à bord des bâtiments pris pour apposer des scellés sur les endroits qui en seront susceptibles et faire une courte description de ce qui ne pourra être compris sous lesdits scellés dont l'état sera vérifié en france par les officiers de l'Amirauté sur l'expédition que l'officier conducteur de la prise sera tenu de rapporter.

Art. 3.ème

Permet néanmoins, Sa Majesté aux capitaines

conducteurs des prises de faire vendre, dans les ports des et.ts unis, soit les marchandises sujettes a deperissement, soit d'autres marchandises pour pourvoir aux besoins des batimens pendant le tems de la relache. seront tenus, a cet effet, lesdits conducteurs des prises d'en demander la permission aux juges du lieu dans la forme ordinaire, de faire proceder a la vente par les officiers publics a ce preposés, et de rapporter des expeditions tant des procedures que du procés verbal de vente.

Article 4.me

Les Conducteurs des prises, qui seront autorisés par les armateurs ou le capitaine du Corsaire preneur a faire vendre lesdittes prises dans les ports des etats unis, seront tenus de faire devant les juges un raport detaillé, lequel sera ensuite verifié par

l'audition de deux hommes au moins de leur equipage, et de requerir lesdits juges de se transporter sur le champ a bord des prises pour en dresser procés verbal, sceller les ecoutilles et les chambres, faire inventaire de ce qui ne pourra etre scellé, et etablir des gardiens, lesdits juges procederont ensuite a l'interrogatoire du Capitaine, des officiers et autres gens de l'equipage des batimens pris, au nombre de deux ou trois et plus s'il est jugé necessaire, et feront translater les pieces utiles du bord, s'il y a des interpretes, en faisant joindre des copies collationnées desdites pieces utiles aux minutes des procedures pour y avoir recours en cas de besoin, ainsi qu'il est prescrit pour les prises conduites dans les ports du Royaume, par l'article 42 de la declaration du 20 Juin dern.

Art 3eme

Déspue(?) les expeditions desdittes

procedures et les pieces originales et translatées auront eté adressées au secretaire general de la marine a Paris pour être procede au jugement par le Conseil des prises, le capitaine ou son commissionnaire pourront requerir la vente provisoire des marchandises et effets sujets a deperissement, et même la vente definitive des prises et de toutes les marchandises de leur chargement, lorsquelles paroitront constamment ennemies d'apres les pieces du bord et les interrogatoires des prisonniers, ainsi quil sera ordonné par les juges des lieux, et qu'il est prescrit pour les prises conduites dans les ports du Royaume par l'article 45 de ladite declaration du 24 juin dernier.

Art. 6.ème

Le dechargement, l'inventaire, la vente et la livraison desdites prises et des marchandises seront faites avec les formalités pratiquées dans les ports des etats unis. les capitaines conducteurs des prises

seront tenus de raporter des liquidations particulieres, ou etats sommaires du produit desdites prises, et des frais faits a l'occasion d'icelles, pour etre lesdittes liquidations particulieres ou etats sommaires deposés, par l'armateur, au greffe de l'amirauté du lieu de l'armement, au terme de l'article 57 de la declaration du 24 Juin dernier, auquel greffe de l'amirauté du lieu de l'armement seront envoiés les jugemens de bonne prise pour y etre enregistrés

Article 7eme

Tous les prisonniers qui se trouveront, soit a bord des corsaires françois qui relacheront dans les ports des etats unis, soit a bord des prises qui y seront conduites, seront immediatement remis aux gouverneurs, ou magistrats des lieux pour etre gardés au nom de sa Majesté et nourris a ses frais ainsi qu'il en sera usé dans les

ports de france pour les prisonniers faits par les corsaires americains. Seront neanmoins tenus les capitaines, qui rameneront leurs prises dans les ports du Royaume pour y etre vendues, de retenir deux ou trois prisonniers principaux pour être interrogés par les officiers de l'amirauté qui feront l'instruction.

Art. 8eme

Les Corsaires des etats unis pourront conduire ou faire conduire leurs prises dans tous les ports de la domination de sa Majesté; soit pour y rester en relache jusqu'à ce qu'elles soient en etat de reprendre la mer, soit pour y être vendues definitivement.

Art. 9eme

Dans le cas d'une simple relache les conducteurs des prises seront tenus de faire, dans les 24 heures de l'arrivée leur declaration, devant les officiers de l'amirauté, lesquels se transporteront, a bord des batimens pris pour aposer des scellés sur les endroits qui en seront susceptibles ou faire une courte description de ce qui ne pourra

etre compris sous lesdits scellés sans quil soit permis de rien debarquer du bord desdittes prises sous les peines portées par les arrets et reglemens de Sa Majesté.

Art. 10

Permet neanmoins Sa Majesté auxdits corsaires americains de faire vendre dans ses ports soit les marchandises sujettes a deperissement soit d'autres marchandises pour pourvoir aux besoins de batimens pendant le tems de la relache; a la charge d'en demander par requête la permission aux officiers des amirautés en presence desquels il sera procedé a ladite vente.

Article 11

Lorsque les sujets des etats unis voudront faire vendre leurs prises dans les ports du Royaume, le capitaine qui aura fait la prise ou l'officier qui aura eté chargé de la conduire, seront tenus d'en faire, devant les officiers de l'amirauté, un raport detaillé lequel sera verifié par l'audition de deux hommes

au moins de leur equipage les officiers de l'amirauté se rendront sur le champ a bord de la prise pour en dresser procès verbal, sceller les ecoutilles et les chambres, faire inventaire de ce qui ne pourra être scellé et etablir des gardiens; ils procederont ensuite a l'interrogatoire du capitaine, des officiers et autres gens de l'equipage du vaisseau pris feront translater les pieces utiles du bord dont ils feront joindre des copies collationnées aux minutes des procedures, et ils adresseront tant les expeditions desdites procedures que les pieces originales et translatées aux deputés des etats unis a Paris.

Art. 12

Les Capitaines conducteurs des prises ou leurs commissionnaires pourront requerir les officiers des amirautés de proceder a la vente provisoire des marchandises et effets sujets a deperissement et même a la vente definitive des prises et de toutes les marchandises de leurs chargemens lorsqu'elles paroitront constamment

ennemies d'apres les pieces du bord et les interrogatoires des prisonniers, ainsi qu'il est prescrit pour les prises faites par les Corsaires françois, par l'article 43 de la declaration du 24 Juin dernier.

Art. 13

Le dechargement, l'inventaire la vente et la livraison desdites prises seront faites en presence des officiers des amirautés, dont les vacations au dechargement a l'inventaire et a la vente des marchandises seront reduites a la moitié, au terme de l'article 52 de la declaration du 24 Juin dernier. lesdits officiers ne procederont a des liquidations particulieres du produit des prises que lorsqu'ils en seront requis par les parties interessées, et dans tous les cas ou il pourra être question de delivrer plusieurs expeditions il ne sera paié au greffier pour les secondes et troisiemes que le prix du papier timbré et les frais d'ecriture.

Art. 14

Veut Sa Majesté que l'arret de Son Conseil, par lequel, au terme de l'article deux de la declaration du 24 Juin dernier, il sera statué sur les especes et qualités des marchandises provenantes des prises qui pourront être consommées dans le Royaume, ainsi que sur les droits auxquels elles seront assujetties, soit egalement executé pour les marchandises provenantes des prises faites par [illegible] par eux de ren[illegible] formalités prescrites par les arrêts et reglemens.

Art. 15

Les Corsaires americains pourront remettre dans les ports aux commissaires des Ports et Arsenaux de la marine les prisonniers dont ils seront chargés. Sa Majesté donnera ses ordres pour que lesdits prisonniers

soient conduits, gardés et no
au nom et aux frais des
Etats unis.

[illegible]nel
a bout
Prises

Arthur Lee Esq.r   Bilbao the 30 Sept.r 1778

Honoured Sir

On the 19th Instant we had the pleasure to hand you Invoice of Shoes Stockings & Blankets shipt on the whole plan for Boston on the Schooner Hawke Cap.t Barzilla Smith to which crave your kind reference & as continue since deprived of your allways esteemd favours have to informe you that Cap.t Benjamin Ives haveing dropt all thoughts of making a cruize on this Coast on account of the smallness of his Schooner Scorpion & of cource determined to be dispatched for Beverly as quick as posible, have also been able to prevaile on him to receive on Board of her 21 Balles of light Sail Cloath Two Balles Tent Cloath 100 pieces of fine first Sort Russia Duck in 50 Balles 1000 lb of Twine in 3 Balles & 333 dozen Sail needles & 24 dozen of Palmes in one Box the whole on Account of the old plan, therefore we now Transmmitt you Invoice of the same ammountting to Reales 114540. & 25 mrs of Vellon: when those goods were shipt we also sent on Board of her 21 Balles more from Number 22 to 42. containing Tent Cloath butt the Vessell being small she could not take them in & were returned back to our Loadge, which were not alittle sorry for: Boath Schooners the Hawke & Scorpion are now ready, butt propose to waitte 2 or 3 days in order to be comboyd as farr as Cape Finis Terre by the Bennington Cap.n William Tuck an American 18 guns Privateer as such they boath have a prospect of getting safe home which shall be very proud to hear.

We have also by this opportunity had the pleasure to pay our respects to your very worthy Brother the Honble Richard H. Lee Esq.r adviceing him our haveing sent by her a small packadge with 2 lb more of the best Jesuits Bark directted to Major Generall James Warren Esq.

as such hope it will safely reach his hands.

We have allready in Loadge the 10,000 Blankets ordered to be shipt on Account of the old plan, butt this being the only proper Season of the year, wherein the Manifacturers are working them, should you be in need of any more should be glad you would be Kind enough to give us your directions, as they may now be collectted easier than hence forward a Governo.

We are In hopes to be favoured soon, with few lines & favourable advices from your goodself In Expectations whereof Subscrive with respectt

Honoured Sir

your most affect. hole Servt.

Joseph Gardoqui & sons

A. Lee's application to Mr. Ross Sept. 30. 1778

(No 246)

"I have only stated that in my opinion it is absolutely necessary, that you sh.d send us copies of the Invoices of the goods you have purchased on the pub. account, & for which we have paid,"

1 Apl. 9. 78 Dr. Lee informs Congress that he will endeavor to have rectified the Commission of 5 pr. Cent charged by Gardoqui — this was done

^ Indeed there has been hitherto such licentiousness suffered in the conduct of our affairs, that these Gentlemen seem to think it both an affront, & injustice to be called upon for a clear, & unequivocal Acct. of the expenditure of the pub. money ^ The manner in which these accounts are made up, is the same ~~I have~~ desired of Mr. Williams, & which he has evaded w.th circumstances of insult & defiance — In this case I thought it more especially my duty to be attentive, because the sum was large, no satisfactory account ever given in of the sums advanced to him; but continual demands for hundred of thousands more; and (tho' he came to us, literally speaking, pennyless) he was loading ships on his own account to America I do not say that he will not be able to give a clear account of this; but the suspicion necessarily arising from it, with the indistinctness of his accounts, & above all the 5 & thous.d Livres taken to himself to be repaid as he says, by a bill on Mr. Chaumont eight months hence (which we have never seen, nor otherwise heard of) was sufficient to satisfy me, that all was not right, & that I could not be justified, if under these circumstances I concurred in paying him the bal. he demanded of the pub. For it seems clear to me that if all the mil.s expended, are thus accounted for, the burthens & property of the pub. will increase w.th the opulence of Individuals; & soon become intolerable — I have before informed you of my hav.g rec.d remittance in bills, to the am.t of 18750 Livres

As I knew it wd. not be necessary to expend this sum sooner than 3 months, I thought it better to get in=terest for it, for that time, than let it lye idle

Septr. 30. 1778

I have sent the Minister a note of the enormous duties demanded & paid upon the supplies from Bordeaux (tho' entirely french manufacture) which are so heavy, that in any times but these, they wd. act as a prohibition!!

(No 245)

(Sep: 30 1778.)

A. Lee
to
Mr. Ross
mentions the irregularity
of
Williams Accn.
& his objections to them.

Extracts from Dr. Lee's letter to Congress

1779 D

mentions the irregula=rity of Williams's accounts & his objecty to these accounts

(No 245) Nantes Sepr 30th 1778.

Sir

I arrived here on monday evening & shall execute your commands with the utmost diligence I have dined with Mr Johnston & Mrs Blake Mr Williams is not in Town, ~~but been~~ is gone to Rochell to dispose of some prizes belonging to the Mifflin; I have been in company with none but southern Gentlemen who all speak in the highest manner & with the greatest respect of you; some of them seem not favourable to your Brother, & all of them speak with the utmost contempt of Mr Adams, (I cant help being of their opinion & think him much fitter to be amongst his shoe string gentry than in one of the politest Courts of Europe) they accuse him of the utmost partiallity to his Countrymen, but could scarcely believe that he could wish us back in goal; I fancy whatever he

may think he will yet repent that speach, Mr Franklin is looked upon to be in his doatage & to be too much influenced by Adams, they all lament that you are overpowered by the Northern Commissioners; & think there has been great injustice done Mr Livingston, he has sacrificed a noble Estate in Jamaica, & is too much a Gentleman to serve under a Cod fisher who tho well skilld in angling, can have no pretentions to the commands which the Shoe string interest has acquired them, It is said Mr Livingston ought to have had the Ranger but not being one of the Cod fishers, it was impossible, I understand ~~there is a~~ the frigate which is a building here is intended to be bought for the State of Virginia, if so & you can procure him the Command, you will not only oblige him ~~him~~ but his numerous relations in Virginia, &

New York, in both which States they have great influence, there is a very fine brig a building here to mount twenty Guns which Mr. Livingston intends buying, if it was to be bought by the State & the command given to Mr. Livingston, what ever the Northern Gentry may think we could get her immediate=ly maned out of the prisoners from forton Goal. - Mr. Dean's letter has been much talked of I believe he will have no agreea=ble abode in Virginia; be pleased to write any perticular commands you may have, I shall communicate constantly what observations I may make; my Compliments to your nephew & Mr. Ford, I have not had the plea-sure of seeing your nephew at this place yet; I am Sir

Your Most Obedient &
Very Hum. Ser.t
Alexr. Dick

I have not addressed you by your title for fear the other commissioners should open it there is no chance of going this month

No 62
Alexr. Dick to Mr. Ford Secy.

(30: Sep: 1778)

(No 248) (~~No. 62~~)

Capt. Dick on the Opinions at Nantes

A Monsieur
Monsieur Ford
Secretaire de Monsieur Lee
l'un des Ministres Plenipotentiaires
des Etats Unis de l'Amerique
a Chaillot
près
Paris

No 5 Rue la taille

92.62

Bretagne
Nantes
mois de Septembre
1778

(N° 240) Art[illegible]

Procès verbal [illegible] d'Effets & de muni=tions d'Artillerie

Ce jour dix sept Septembre mil sept cent soixante dix huit Nous Commissaire [illegible] royal d'artillerie en Bretagne [illegible] transporté au Chateau de Nantes à la [illegible] de M. de Malherbe, Colonel, Directeur d'artillerie en la ditte province & la residence de la ditte Place a l'effet d'etre present & de constater la livraison qu'il entendoit faire en execution de la Cour au S. Jean Daniel Schweighauser neg. de la ditte Ville d'Effets et de munitions d'arti=lerie, dont le detail suit.

Scavoir

Especes de munitions	Quantité & Calibre		leur Noms	leur Poids	total du Poids
Pieces de Canons de fonte	de 21	1	le Militaire	5360	
		1	le Severe	5810	
		1	l'hypocondre	5200	
		1	le gourmand	6010	
		1	le divertisant	5210	43180
		1	le Demoniaq.	5100	
		1	l'Envie	5110	
		1	l'avocat	4960	
		8			
	de 8	1	le Docile	2213	
		1	le sage	2210	8920
		1	le Prudent	2216	
		1	le Brave	2251	
		4			
	de 4	1	le tintamare	813	
		1	le Louis	862	3367
		1	le Monarque	813	
		1	le Carillon	819	
		4			55467

Suitte du De[illegible] [illegible] & Munitions.

Espèces de Munitions	Quantité & Calibre	leur [illegible]	leur Poids	total du Poids
	Transport			551676
Mortiers de fonte [illegible]	1	Cherbarer	2058	
	1	l'Affreux	1987	8385
	1	Anonyme	2140	
	1	Idem	2240	
	4			

Quantité & Calibre

Affuts de canons de 24	8	a bas rouages	17600
idem de 8	1	a hauts rouages	
avant trains	18		
Effets de Fer	1	avec Coussinets	15160
Boules pour mortiers de 12 Pouces		& 4 coins de mire	
Bombes de 8 Pouces	1000		37000
Boulets de 24	2007		48168
Boulets de 8	3982		31856
			213939

Fusées a Bombes non chargées } de 12 Pouces 2.000

Tous lesquels effets & munitions ayant été estimées precedemment ainsi qu'il resulte du proces verbal raporté a la Rochelle par Mr Demire il ne reste ici qu'a evaluer le prix des deux mille fusées a Bombes non chargées qui ont été estimées a celui de quinze livres le Cent ce qui fait pour les deux mille la some de trois Cent Livres. — La description des Effets et munitions telle qu'elle est raportée au present procès verbal et l'estimation des dites deux mille fusées a Bombes non chargées ont été faittes en presence de mon dit sieur de Malherbe & en

la[illegible]

la notte de l'adit [illegible]
appelé à pris [illegible]
s'est soumis à nous [illegible]
au bas du present [illegible]
de Nantes le jour et an [illegible]

signé Bonnier De Ma[illegible]

Je soussigné reconnois que les effets [illegible]
m'ont été delivrés des Magasins de Nantes [illegible]
consequemment des ordres du Ministre de la Guerre [illegible]
a Nantes le 18 sept[illegible]

signé [illegible] Jean Johineiffram[illegible]

Account of Arms provid.^d
Sepr 1778

(No 240)

French Letters
in this Bundle

a Nantes le 1er octobre 1778.

(N° 24)

Monsieur

On m'a remis aujourd'hui votre Missive que vous m'avez l'honneur de m'ecrire en datte du 24 du mois dernier par laquelle vous me marquez que vous ne pouvez entrer dans les engagemens dont je vous ai fait mention dans mes precédentes; je conviens avec vous qu'il ne seroit pas prudent de contracter des Engagements en en fixant le terme pour le paiement, ce seroit une imprudence puisque qu'on vous exposeroit a avoir des desagrements, vu que l'on ne peut savoir au juste ou l'on pourroit rembourser les fonds. Je vais cependant faire plusieurs petits marchés qui ne vous engageront en aucune manière, les personnes avec qui je les ferai attendront le retour des Tabacs de Virginie en france pour recevoir leur paiement, sans que vous soyez obligé d'en debourser le premier sou; mais il faudra que vous mettiez au bas des traites votre acceptation conforme a la teneur, en allouant six pour cent d'interet ~~par annee~~ jusqu'au parfait paiement.

Quant au Navire de force dont je vous ai parlé dans ma derniere, j'en ai deja conferé avec M. Schweighauser, nous prendrons tous les moyens surs pour arriver a bien en Virginie

Monsieur Lee Ecuyer a Chaillot

il n'y a que ce parti là pour pouvoir bien y réussir, et je suis moralement persuadé que je ne serai pas pris par l'ennemi de l'Etat.

Si vous voulez m'envoyer les 400.tt que je vous ai demandées par ma dernière vous me rendrez un signalé service.

Lorsque le frêt du N.re sera arreté je n'aurai rien de plus pressé que de vous en donner avis.

J'ai appris avec plaisir que vous avez obtenu un passeport pour faire rendre les sabres de Strasbourg à Nantes afin d'éviter les droits des fermes; j'ai reçu avis qu'on alloit rembourser ceux qu'on avoit percus, j'ai écrit en conséquence à M. François Miron Negociant à Orleans de renvoyer les acquits qui constatent la quittance des droits à MM.rs Richard et Clement de Strasbourg qui ont été chargés de cette expédition,

J'ai l'honneur d'être bien veritablement

Monsieur

Votre tres humble
et tres obeissant serviteur
Le Maire

A Monsieur

Monsieur Arthur Lee
Ecuyer, en son hotel [illegible] Bataille
près Paris

A Chaillot

(No 247)

Le Maire to A. Lee
with a Statement
1st Oct. '78

1

My Dear Sir. Virginia. Gunston Hall, Octo.r 2. 1778.

It gave me great pleasure, upon receipt of your Letter of the 3d of April per Mr. Diggs to hear that you are alive & well in a Country where you can spend your Time agreeably; not having heard a Word from you, or of you, for two years before. I am much obliged by the friendly Concern you take in my domestic affairs, & your kind Enquiry after my Family: great alterations have happened in it. about four years ago I had the misfortune to lose my wife: to you, who knew her, & the happy manner in which we lived, I will not attempt to describe my feelings: I was scarce able to bear the first shock; a depression of Spirits, & settled melancholly followed, from which I never expect, or desire to recover. I determined to spend the Remainder of my days in privacy & Retirement, with my Children, from whose Society alone I could expect comfort: some of them are now grown up to men & Women, & I have the satisfaction to see them free from Vices, good-natured, obliging, & dutiful They all still live with me, & remain single, except my second Daughter Sally; who is lately married to my Neighbour Mr. McCarty's Son. My eldest Daughter, Nancy (who is blessed with her mother's amiable Disposition) is Mistress of my family, and manages my little domestic Matters with a degree of prudence far above her years. My eldest Son, George, engaged early in the american Cause, & was chosen Ensign of the first Independant Company formed in Virginia or indeed on the Continent; it was commanded by the present

General Washington as Captain, & consisted entirely of Gentlemen. In the year 1775 he was appointed a Captain of Foot in one of the first minute-regiments raised here; but was soon obliged to quit the Service by a violent Rheumatic Dis-order, which has followed him ever since, & I believe will force him to try the climate of France or Italy. My other Boys have not yet finished their Education; as soon as they have if the War continues they seem strongly inclined to take an active part.— In the summer of the year 1775 I was, much against my Inclination, drag'd out of my Retirement by the people of my County, & sent a Delegate to the General Convention at Richmond, where I was appointed a Member of the first Committee of Safety, & have since, at different times, been chosen a Member of the Privy-Council, & of the American Congress; but have constantly declined acting in any other public Character than that of an Independent Representative of the people in the House of Delegates; where I still remain, from a Consciousness of my being able to do my Country more Service there than in any other department; & have ever since devoted most of my time to public Business, to the no small neglect & Injury of my private Fortune; but if I can only live to see the american Union firmly fix'd, & free Governments well established in our western World, & can leave to my Children but a crust of Bread & Liberty, I shall die satisfy'd, and say with the Psalmist, "Lord now lettest thou thy Servant depart

in peace."

To shew you that I have not been an idle Spectator of this great Contest, and to amuse you with the Sentiments of an old Friend, upon so important a Subject, I enclose you a Copy of the first Draught of the declaration of Rights, just as it was drawn by me, & presented to the Virginia Convention, where it received few alterations, some of them I think not for the better: This was the first thing of the kind upon the Continent; and has been closely imitated by all the other States. There is a remarkable Sameness in all the forms of Government throughout the american Union except in the States of South Carolina & Pennsylvania, the first has three Branches of Legislature, & the other only one; all the other States have two: This difference gives general disgust, & it is probable an alteration will soon take place, to assimulate these to the Constitutions of the other States.

We have laid our new Government upon a broad foundation, & have endeavored to provide the most effectual securities for the essential Rights of human Nature, both in civil & religious Liberty; the people become every Day more & more attached to it; and I trust that neither the power of Great Britain, nor the power of Hell will be able to prevail against it.

There never was an idler or a falser Notion, than that which the British Ministry have imposed upon the Nation — "that this great Revolution has been the Work of a Faction, of a Junto of ambitious Men, against the sense of the people of America".

— On the contrary nothing hath been done without the approbation of the People; who indeed have out ran their leaders; so that no capital Measure hath been adopted, until they called loudly for it: to any man, who knows Mankind, there needs no greater proof, than the cordial Manner in which they have co-operated, & the patience & perseverence with which they have struggled under their sufferings; which have been greater than you, at a distance, can conceive, or describe. Equally false is the assertion, "that Independance was originally designed here." Things have gone such lengths, that it is now a matter of Moonshine to us, whether Independence was at first intended or not; & therefore we may now be believed. —

The truth is we have been forc'd into it, as the only means of self-preservation, to guard our Country & posterity against the greatest of all Evils, such another infernal Government (if it deserves the Name of Government) as the provinces groan under, in the latter ages of the Roman Common wealth.

To talk of replacing us in the situation of 1763, as we first asked, is to the last degree absurd, & impossible: they obstinately refused it, while it was in their power, & now that is out of their power they offer it.

Can they raise our Citys out of their ashes? can they replace in Ease & affluence, the thousands of familys whom they have ruined? Can they restore, the husband to the Widow, the Child to the Parent, or the father to the Orphan? In a Word can they re-animate the Dead? —

(5) (20)

Our Country has been made a Scene of Desolation and Blood. Enormities & Cruelties have been committed here, which not only disgrace the British Name, but dishonor the human Kind! — We can never again trust a people who have thus used us — Human-nature revolts at the Idea — The die is cast — the Rubicon is passed — and a Reconciliation with Great Britain, upon the terms of returning to her Government, is impossible. —

No man was more warmly attach'd to the Hanover Family & the Whig Interest of England than I was, and few men had stronger prejudices in favor of that form of Government under which I was born & bred, or greater aversion to changing it: It was ever my Opinion that no good Man would wish to try so dangerous an Experiment, upon any Speculative Notions whatsoever, without an absolute necessity. The ancient Poets, in their elegant Manner of expression, have made a kind of Being of necessity, & tell us, that the Gods themselves are obliged to yield to her.

When I was first a Member of the Convention, I exerted myself to prevent a Confiscation of the King's Quit-rents; and altho' I was for putting the Country immediately in a state of Defence, & preparing for the worst; yet as long as we had any well founded Hopes of Reconciliation, I opposed, to the utmost of my power, all violent Measures, & such as might shut the door to it; but when Reconciliation be-came a lost hope, when unconditional Submission, or

effectual Resistance were the only alternatives left us, when the last dutiful & humble petition from Congress received no other answer, than declaring us Rebels, & out of the King's Protection, I from that moment look'd forward to a Revolution, and Independence, as the only Means of Salvation; & will risque the last penny of my fortune, & the last drop of my blood upon the issue; for to imagine that we cou'd resist the Efforts of Great Britain, still professing ourselves her subjects, or support a defensive War against a powerful Nation, without the Reins of Government in the Hands of America (whatever our pretended friends in Great Britain may say of it) is too childish & futile an Idea to enter into the head of any man of common-sense.

I am not singular in my Opinions; these are the Sentiments of more than nine tenths of the best men in America.

God has been pleased to bless our endeavours, in a just Cause, with remarkable Success. To us, upon the Spot, who have seen, step by step, the progress of this great Contest, who know the defenceless State of America in the Beginning, and the numberless difficulties we have had to struggle with, taking a retrospective View of what is passed, we seem to have been treading upon enchanted Ground; The Case is now altered, American prospects brighten, & appearances are strongly in our favor: The British Ministry must, & will acknowledge us independent States;

but (judging of the future by the past) if they act consistently, they will delay this, until mutual Injuries & Resentments are further aggravated, until our growing prejudices against Great Britain are more firmly rooted, & until we become better reconciled to foreign manufactures, & foreign Manners: it will not require many years to accomplish this; and then the Wisdom of British Councils will seize the auspicious Moment to recognize the Independence of America.

The present plan of the British Ministry seems to be to corrupt & bribe the Congress; but in this, as they have in every else, they will be disappointed; not that I imagine that there are no rotten Members in so numerous a Body of Men — Among the twelve apostles there was a Judas — but they are too much in the power of the assemblies of their respective States, and so thoroughly amenable to the people, that no Man among them, who Values his own Life, dares to tamper; and upon this Rock the Safety of America is founded. —

I have thus given you a long, & faithful, & I fear you will think a tedious, account of the political State of affairs here; my opportunities of knowing them are equal to most men's, & the natural Anxiety you must have to be well informed of the Situation of your

native Country, at so important a Crisis, will a-pologize for the trouble.

We have had 200,000 Acres of land laid off, marked & bounded in one Survey for the Ohio

George Mason
Copy of a letter from
George Mason Esqr.
& Col. Mercer.

Dear Sir,

Dover the 2 October 1778.

Hearing from a Friend lately that you were at Paris, & having a good Opportunity of writing to France from hence, I take the Liberty to trouble you with this to acquaint you that when I left London, which was eight days ago, your Friends there were all in perfect Health, my Mother saw Mrs Paradise a few Days before my Departure, which I doubt not Mr Lee will be glad to be informed of. I took this Journey partly to see a Friend here, & at the same to accompany some of our unfortunate Countrymen & see them off, all of whom that went this route are happily freed from the persecutions of their obdurate & unrelenting Enemies. I represented to them all particularly to Mr Woodard, who is a sensible, modest Young Man, that I wished a plan was adopted to supply those, who after effecting their Liberty might want a few Guineas to defray their Expences from hence, it not being in the Power of a few Individuals here to furnish what in better times they could easily afford to spare. If you approve of this Plan, you will of course mention it to your Brother, & the other Gentlemen in whose Department it will properly be a Matter worthy of

some consideration, & Attention. We have not heard any fresh News lately from America, the Wind being fair for Arrivals we daily expect to hear something important. We are informed that the Fox Frigate is taken in the Bay by the Juno of 50 Guns & carried into Brest. There is also a flying Report that the Albion one of Byron's Squadron disabled, that put into Lisbon to be refitted, was taken on her return to England by the French off Cape Finisterre. Dover Pier is almost full of Dutch Vessels lately taken by the english Cutters, which I am informed will be soon restored, in Consequence of a very spirited remonstrance lately presented to the British Court by the Counte de Welderen. It will be very proper to inform the Commanders of all American Vessels that they will do well not to speak with any Sloop rigg'd Vessels who may endeavor to approach them on the Sea Coast, there are eight of them at Foulkstone, & several more at this Place fitting out for cruises, some are almost ready to depart to their intended Stations, they are mostly very strong, carrying from 12 to 18 Guns heavy metal, & sail very fast. The spirit of privateering here, & at the other Sea Port Towns greatly pervades at present, & the adventurers talk of making their Fortunes very quickly. I am with best Respects to yourself & Mrs Lee,

Dear Sir,

Your mo: obed.t Servant

G. F. N.

Corunna Octr 3d 1778 (No 248)

On the 29th of Sepr arrivd here the Privateer Brig Vengeance mounting twenty Guns Commanded by Wingate Newman, on the 16th of August Sailed from Newbury Port New England On the 2nd of Septr Latt 41. 13 N Longd 24. Wo fell in with a fleet of British Vessels about 50 in Numbers but was chased out of the fleet by two Frigates & on the 6th fell in again with the same fleet but at some distance to leeward of them, seeing a ship standing to the Westward gave chase but could not Speak with her, night coming on lost sight of her on the 17th In Lattd 49 Nth Longd 23 West fell in with the Ship Harriot Packet of Sixteen Carriage Guns Captn Sampson Spargo from Falmouth out ten days who after a Short Engagement Struck which he dispatchd for Newbury Port, & on the 21st fell in with the Snow Eagle Packett of fourteen Carriage Guns from New York out 28 days Commanded by Edmd Spence who after an Engagement of about twenty minutes Struck which he Likewise dispatchd for Newbury port The Following Passengers Belonging to the British army were on Board the Eagle Packet Vizt Colo Howard of the first Regt of Guards Killed, Lieut Colo McDonald of the 71st Regt, Lieut Colo Anstruther of the 62d Regt, Lieut Colo Stevens of the Coldstream Regt of Guards Gorden Forbes Major of 71th Regt George Barclay late major of the 35 Regt Honble Charles Cathcart Captn of Athol Highlanders 2nd Major of Lord Cathcarts Legion, John Stoper Cornet of the 17th Regt of Light Dragoons — Miss Jane Marsh, & a number of other Passengers of no note & in the Harriot Packett was Passengers Mr Abraham Forst Mercht of London & one John Nutting an overseer of his Majestys Works Languard fort, with a Number of others of no distinction having on Board about One Hundd Prisoners & but little provisions thought best to put into the first Port, & accordingly arrivd here on the 29th Instant

(No 248)

Sampson Packet
Captn Sharpe
taken
(1778.)

Vengeance Privateer

Sampson packet
Capt. Sharpe taken
1778

Copy

Dear Sir, Philadelphia [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] me your favor of [illegible]

[illegible] and which I shall [illegible]

supposed that the Assembly [illegible] called upon that [illegible]

the letter can reach that place. The [illegible]

certainly written by [illegible], and circulated [illegible] the [illegible] of

administration [illegible] to [illegible] the [illegible]

propose [illegible] for the [illegible] of [illegible], which are [illegible]

unavoidable. I agree with you Sir that the fishery is a [illegible]

point, nor will the [illegible] of Canada be with less difficulty settled in

those negotiations which precede a peace. The arrival of Adm. Byron's

Squadron has given to our enemies a temporary [illegible] superiority

in these Seas — The sending him here was more necessary than it would be

called [illegible] — that the fleet of Great Britain is by this detachment

rendered inferior to that of France in the Channel of England.

My brother informs me from Paris July 4 that [illegible] engagement

is every day expected between the two fleets. Later accounts say it

has happened and that the English fleet was beaten. Our information

from the West Indies says that Dominica is taken, and that Jamaica

and St. Kitts are in Jeopardy. I believe our enemies would willingly

change their war of conquest into a war of revenge, but revenge must

be postponed to safety, and I think they will rather endeavor to save

what remains, than attempt to [illegible] what they have lost, or gratify their

malignity. But Canada, [illegible], the West Indies, and even G. Britain

and Ireland in danger. But [illegible] to precaution, and they

may attempt Boston, as some think, in order to destroy the French fleet

If they do, and fail in the attempt, they will be defenceless in every part of the world by the destruction of the only army on which they can hang their hopes. I have a very high opinion of the republican principles and of the ability of Mr Mazzei. And I think that if Mr Randolph were sent to Genoa with him for Secretary, we might have a good chance to succeed in borrowing there one of the millions, five of which are absolutely necessary to sustain, and restore our falling currency. To cultivate a good understanding with the nations in the south of Europe is undoubtedly wise policy, and may produce the most profitable consequences. These ~~[illegible]~~ affairs will come present under the consideration of Congress, when I shall not forget the professions of Mr Mazzei. Mr Izard is the Commissioner for Tuscany, my brother William is appointed both for Vienna and Berlin. He has been sometime at the former Court, but the Court refused to receive a Minister formally or to acknowledge yet our Independence, altho he did by his Minister most unequivocally promise my brother he would do so, as soon as France should set the example. Since this, he has quarrelled with the Emperor about the Bavarian succession, and wanting the aid of Hanover, Hesse, Brunswic &c he chooses to be well with England. The Emperor is not a little puzzled in the same way and for the same reasons. 'Tis a matter, not of the greatest moment to us at present, since the war between the two Giants will swallow up in their respective vortices the dependants and thus prevent the King of England from bringing German auxiliaries to destroy our alliance. There is nothing that threatens so much injury

cause at present [illegible] operations of Engrossers. If something
decisive is not quickly done by the Legislatures to stop the progress
of Engrossing, and to make these Miscreants deliver up their ill
gotten collections, the American Army must disband, and the fleet
of our Allies remain in Boston Harbor. I know the root of this evil
is in the redundance of money, but until the latter can be reduced
some measures are indispensable to be taken with the Engrossers. You will see
the expedients devised by us. A more effectual one will follow
shortly, in a proposition of Finance, now under consideration.
I am so greatly pressed with business that I cannot now write to
Mr. Mazzei and trust by the favor of you to make this apology
for me [illegible] and remember me affectionately to Mr. Wythe &
Col. [illegible] Lee is with you

I am affectionately yours

Richard Henry Lee

P. S. Col. Baylor, with a Corps of 80 Light Dragoons,
was lately surprised in the Jerseys, between Hackensack
& the North River — Himself made prisoner, and his
party chiefly put to the Bayonet, it is said, in cold
blood —

437

(No 361)

Lebanon 5th Octo 1778

Sir

Altho personally unacquainted with you, yet influenced by the knowledge of your Public Character, I take the liberty to address you on the Subject of a Representation I have thought proper to make to Congress thro the President, respecting the Concerns of my dec'd Son the late Commissary General — a Representation of the like nature from himself, was by him presented to Congress long before his death — that passing unnoticed, was matter of grief to him thro all his illness — Was he mistaken in thinking justice was not done him for his long, assiduous and unwearied attention to the public duties of his Office? — The same justice which was due to him, is now due to his Relict and Heirs — I wish for nothing more than justice — May I beg Sir for your influence in the speedy determination of the Subject of my Representation — that it may not meet the like inattention which seems to have been paid to that of my Son's — I forbear to mention a thousand considerations which the subject merits — I leave them to the suggestions of your own informed mind — begging only your particular influence in the case, that it may be speedily issued —

I am, with much consideration & Respect
Sir your Obedient
hble Servant
Jonth Trumbull

Honble R. H. Lee Esqr

Gov. Jonathan Trumbull
Oct. 5th 1778 (Conn.
(No 261)

Governor Trumbull
5th Octr 1778

Lebanon
Jon. Trumbull

Honble Richard Henry Lee Esquire
Delegate from Virginia in Congress
Philadelphia

Favd by Mr Messenger

Letters from
several to R. H. Lee
when in Congress
1777 & 1778

Oct. 78

Le Comte de Vergennes fait ses remercimens a Monsieur Lee des nouvelles d'Amerique dont il a bien voulu lui faire part, il desire bien vivement que Monsieur Lee puisse lui annoncer l'heureux succès de l'importante entreprise qui devoit se faire le 10. aoust. si les Anglois ne conservoient que Newport il seroit impossible qu'ils s'y soutinssent longtems. Le Comte de Vergennes prie Monsieur Lee d'agreer l'assurance de toute sa sensibilité et ses sinceres complimens.

Versailles le 5. octobre 1778

des nouvelles venues par une autre occasion assurent la prise de Rhodes island. C'est le sieur Rodigne arrivé a Rochefort qui en a porté la nouvelle il la tenoit d'un batiment armé de Boston qui avoit porté des pilotes a M. le Cte d'Estaing pour le conduire

dans le port ou il alloit se radouber a la suite d'un
ouragan afreux qui a regné dans toute l'amerique
le 14. avant

Count de Vergennes thanks Mr Lee for the news he was so good as to communicate from America He wishes most sincerely that Mr Lee could fur-nish him with certain advice of the happy success of the important enterprise of the 10th of Augt. If the English keep nothing but New York, it will be impossible for them to maintain that post long. Count Vergenns prays Mr Lee to accept the assurances of his gratitude &c &c

Versailles Oct. 5th 1778

P. S. Intelligence received by another channel assures us that Rhode Island is taken. It is the sier Rodorigue arrived at Rochfort that brought it, as received from an armed vessel of Boston which carried pilots to Count d'Estaing to conduct him into that port where he is going to refit after a terrible tem-pest that raged thro' all America the 14 of Augt.

In Congress Octo.r 6th. 1778.

Resolved, That the hon.ble Benj. Franklin, Arthur Lee and John Adams Esquires or any one of them be directed forthwith to apply to doct. Price and inform him that it is the desire of Congress to consider him as a citizen of the United States, and to receive his assistance in regulating their Finances — that if he shall think it expedient to remove with his family to America, and afford such assistance a generous provision shall be made for requiting his services.

Extract from the Minutes.

Cha Thomson secy

Arthur Lee Esqr. Bilbao the 7th Octovr. 1778.

Honoured Sir

After we have sent to the Post office the letter we have had the pleasure to writte you this day Mr. Emery Informes us that he will putt up on freight for America a Prize Brigg he has in this River with American Crew provided one half the freight is paid him downe here in Cash to victuall the Vessell; & as we could ship on her the whole of the collected Articles old plan: should be glad to Know whether you will give orders to Mr. Le Grand to answer our draught for the half freight In which case we could send by her the whole & Compleat the order. We beg your answer by returne of post & Sincerely remmain

Honoured Sir

your most affecd. obt. hole Ser.

Joseph Gardoqui & sons

Versaille le 7. 8bre 1778.

J'ai reçu Messieurs, la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 26 du mois dern., par laquelle vous appuiez la demande de M. Izzard ministre des Etats unis en Toscane, qui reclame des effets chargés sur le navire anglois le Nil pris par le Corsaire de Marseille le Cesar. C'est par erreur que vous avez cité dans votre lettre, l'article 16 du Traité fait entre Sa Majesté et les Etats unis mais l'article 14 paroit se rapporter particulierement à la question; il ne renferme d'ailleurs que des dispositions connues dans les differens traités de commerce et fondées sur le Droit public, et je ne vois pas qu'il puisse rigoureusement s'appliquer à l'espece presente: M. Izzard n'est point nommé dans le connoissement des effets qu'il reclame. il n'existe même aucune piece qui prouve que ce n'est pas pour le compte anglois que ces bagages chargés par un anglois, sont adressés au Sr. martinelli pour remettre au Sr. abbé Niccoli,

MM. les Députés des Etats unis.

Sans doute, Messieurs, si le gouvernement avoit a décider sans la participation des Tribunaux votre assertion et celle de M. Izzard, seroit d'un très grand poids. mais sa majesté a abandonné le produit entier des Prises aux armateurs, le conseil des Prises a jugé bonne le 20 du mois de cette du navire le Nil. placé entre les interessés dans l'armement du corsaire françois, le Tribunal des Prises, et le reclamateur, le gouvernement ne peut prendre sur lui de prononcer sur cette question; c'est tout ce qu'il pouroit se permettre dans le cas où les loix seroient insuffisantes; mais ici les loix générales sont connues, elles décident sur la légitimité des reclamations d'effets chargés avant les hostilités, et M. Izzard en s'adressant aux Tribunaux doit en attendre toute la justice et tous les égards que l'on aura toujours en france pour les sujets des Etats unis.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec la considération la plus distinguée. Messieurs, Votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur./.

Arthur Lee Esqr.   Bilbao the 7th Octobr 1778

Honoured Sir

We crave your very Kind reference to what had the pleasing satisfaction of salutting you last with on the 30th ulto Since which as have the mortification to continue deprived of your allways Esteemed favours the present will Chiefly serve to informe you the safe arrivall with us on the 5th Instant of the Schooner Lively Capn Michael Dupuy in 39 days pasage from New Burry with a cargoe of Flax Seed to our adress, & as a Freind of ours on whose veracity we can depend upon, gives us a circunstancial Information of all the American & French Fleett under the Count D'Estains Transactions before Rhode Island as farr as the 28th August, have thought proper to Transmmitt you a Copy thereof for your Goverment, as also the Two News paipers of the latetest datte that we had from the Master —
We Sincerely condole with you on the disapointment America has mett with, on Account of the Count's presipitate departure from his Station before Rhode Island, as by all our informations find that had he Kept the same butt only 24 Hours the whole Island might have been reduced & thereby Generall Sullivan would have had a Compleat day: We very Cordially Salutte you & remmain —

Honoured Sir
your mt affecd obt hole Serts
Joseph Gardoqui & sons

Further particulars adviced us by another of our freinds from Sallem under the 24th augt.
=„ After the divition of the English & the French Fleett „ in the heavy Stormy gale, it appeared that the Count ship „ lost the Topmast & some others alittle dammag'd; they Tooke „ a British Frigatte & a Bomb Ketch, & arrived at Newport

last Fryday after being absent 12 days; One ship of the Counts Fleett named the Cezar was missing butt yesterday she arrived here & Informs that In the gale she passed a British Two Decker without a mast or even a Bowspritt Standing & that after the Gale she fell in with a British 64. which she Engaged near three hours, when she Struck butt before they could take possession of her Two other M. W. appeard & obliged him to make off & live her to his & our great mortification; the Capt of the Cezar lost his Arm & had about 20 Killed & near 50 Wounded she now is at Boston Reffitting:

On the 28th August there was no news at all of Admmirall Byrons appearance on any part of the Coast of America

(No 3)

(No 250)

[illegible] 18 Oct. 1778.

[I wrote to you the 4th & yesterday, Ind.g of the 1st. — I forgot to mention that directions were given to Mr. Savage Orfevre à l'aineau blanc quay des orfevres Pont Neuf, to make his estimate for a small portable Vice as well as the seal for the S. of V. — but on recollection I think the vice will be unnecessary because they must have had something of this sort to use their former seal with. — therefore all that is now wanted will be the two Silver pieces properly engraved to make the impression on each side of the Wax. This can't cost near what you talked of, nor can it be difficult to execute, — let me know if you can have it done in P— if not, I will have it done in Holland.] — In LeMaire's Invoice - two expert light Horse Men are required to be sent — Conflans Regemt. of Dragoons now in Lorraine, is composed of Germans, many of them will have their discharge in abt. 6 Weeks or 2 Months, & some of them wish to go to America, if application is made to P— e M— B— y, he wd. certainly have 2 proper Men pointed out to go — Some of them have spoke to me & wd. willingly enter for abt. 10 Guineas pr. year, — I shd. be glad [illegible] the Letter from 164 to and [illegible] Mr. G. can get the money at G[illegible] on the terms he mention'd to me viz @ 6½ [illegible] for [illegible] all charges I shall be well content send his [illegible] you please. — Add to your list of Names — T. Digges 171 — [illegible] Jenings 172. — L[illegible] additional Canon[illegible] to be [illegible] from 30

[illegible] 1778.

Gazette [illegible] 133 u 143. — every reason both public & private require [illegible] the K. of P. has returned with his Army to Silesia [illegible] quarters are [illegible] Breslaw & [illegible] his Ministers from [illegible] summoned to attend — Prince Henry has retired to Saxony with his Army, his head quarters are at Dresden, in his retreat 'tis said he made prisoners of almost the whole Regiment of Otto ab.t 1500 Men. — Give us all the News you can especially from America. We continue well but every day I expect to be fully employed. We send our Love to you & Nedwell & best Comp.ts to Mess. Sy. Ld. their families & M.r I—g's Acc.t

Extract of a Letter from Brest dated 23 Sept. 78.

"I have been very much surprized to see here that no more "care is taken to prevent the English Prisoners belonging "to America from running away. Since I am in this Town, "we hear almost every day of several escaping on board "of all the neutral Ships when they go away."

Should not this be enquired into & redressed.?

1772

F----T. 8 Oct. 1778

Dr. Br.

I wrote to you the 4th. yesterday I received yours of the 1st. I forgot to mention that directions were given to M. Savage Orfevre a l'aineau blanc quay des orfevres l'ont Neuf, so make his estimate for a small portable vice as well as the seal for the S. of V. but on recollection I think the vice will be unnecessary because they must have had something of this sort to use their former seal with - therefore all that is now wanted will be the two Silver pieces properly engraved to make the impression on each side of the Wax. This can't cost near what you talked of, nor can it be difficult to execute, let me know if you can have it done in P-- if not, I will have it done, in Holland, In Le Maires Invoice two expert light Horse Men are required to be sent. Conflans Regiment of Dragoons now in Lorraine is composed of Germans, many of them will have their discharge in ab! 6 weeks or 2 months, & some of them wish to go to America, if application is made to P---ee M---B---y, he w'd certainly have 2 proper Men pointed out to go. Some of them have spoke to me & would willingly enter for about 10 guineas per year, -- I should be glad to have the letter from 164 to me & if Mn. G. can get the money at G---a on the terms he mentioned to me viz 6 1/2 pC? for Int. on all charges I shall be well content - send his [torn] you please. As to your list of Names [torn] T. Digges - 171. Jennings 172. [torn] additional [torn] be had from 50 [torn] particularly 164 & 113. ---every reason both public & private requites this of 97 altho K. of P. has retired with his army to Silesia his head quarters are at Dresden, in his retreat it is said he made prisoners of almost the whole Regiment of Otto about 1500 Men. Give us all the News you can especially from America; We continue well but every day I expect to be fully employed. We send our Love to you & Ludwell & best Compliments to Miss. Iz. LL. their families & Mr. I----gs. Adieu.

Extract from a letter from Brest dated 23 Sept. 78.

"I have been very much surprised to see here that nor more care is taken to prevent the English Prisoners belonging to America from running away. Since I am in this Town, we hear every day

of several escaping on board of all the neutral Ships when they go away."

Should not this be inquired into & redressed?

[Mr. Lee to A. Lee Oct 8th 1778]

William Lee Esqr (Copy)

Dear Sir

Virginia Gunston Hall Oct. 8th 1778

Your favor from Nantes in Octr. last (dated in London May 22d. 1777) pr. the Congress Captn. Skinner was duly recd. cover.g Acct. Sales for my one hundred hhds. of Tobo. shipt you to London in 1775. Nett proceeds £1053..11..10 Sterg. with which I am by no means pleased; had the Tobo. been kept as I desird (& put it in your power to do by not drawing for it for a year or two) it woud have produced more than double the sum; instead of which I observe it was sold soon after its arrival, at a less price than I refused for it in Virginia, & was I to take paper money here for it, as you intended, I shoud not receive one fifth of the value, & will sooner submit to a loss of the whole: I therefore immediately returnd your orders, one on Mr. John Mills for the sum of £388..17..5 & the other on Messs. Triplett & Thornton for £445..12..10 by Col. R. H. Lee whose recd. I have for them. I have certainly a legal as well as just right to the benefit of the exchange for my own money in another Country, or to make such other use of it as I judge best, & if you endeavor to disappoint me in doing this I must draw Bills on you, & in case of nonpayment, order them to be regularly protested & returnd, that I may seek my proper remedie: I entreat you, my Dear Sir, not to [put] me under such disagreeable necessity, for my friendship for your Family will make it exceedingly so to me. My bills of the 13th. March 1777 favor Messs. Penet Hoe for £190. Sterg. you say, shall be duly paid: but take no notice of my bills of the 24th of April 1777 favour Messrs. I Gruel & Compy. Merchts. in Nantes for the sum of £850. Sterg. which I understand from your Brother you had refused to pay. Had I known of your removal from London to France I shoud not have drawn the sd. Bills to Gruel & Compy. having no other motive in doing it but to get my money out of England, & therefore your not paying them has not (that I know of) been any disadvantage to me as I had rather the money shoud have remaind in yr. hands than a Stranger, & this suggestion might perhaps induce you not to pay them; but I shoud have taken it more kindly if you had mentiond the matter openly & candidly to me in your letter instead of studiously avoiding such an explanation. I hope you will excuse the freedom with which I write; in doing so, I deal with my friend, as I wish all Men to deal with me. I have now to desire you will send me goods to the amount of the Ballc. I have in yr. Hands as pr. list on the other side pr. the first good Ship to Virginia agreeing particularly for the Freight & transmitting me Bills of Lading &c. [NB What further relates to the Goods as well as the Invoyce is omitted in this Copy because the said Goods are by my subsequent letter herewith countermanded & the money in your hands orderd to be disposed of otherwise.]

I pray

I pray you to let me hear from you speedily & sincerely wishing you health & happi-
:ness remain Dear Sir, your most Hble Servt. (Signd) G. Mason

William Lee Esqr.

---

the above came inclosed in another letter of which the following is a copy.

(Copy)

William Lee Esqr.

Dear Sir

Virginia Gunston Hall March 4. 1779

Inclosed you have a copy of my letter of the 8th. of Octr. 1778 to which I beg leave to refer. I have lately receiv'd such information of the high freight & insurance from France to America, that I have now to desire you will not invest my money in Goods as was directed in my said letter of the 8th of Octr. last but that you will pay it, vizt. the sum of £834..10..3 Sterg. (the Balla. due to me by your own Acct.) together with the charges incurred by yr. protests in London & Paris to Messrs. Penet D'Acosta frerres & Compy. Merchts. in Nantes, to whom I have given an order on you for that purpose. Your Brother Col. Richard Henry Lee tells me that he immediately gave you notice of my having refused to take the orders you sent me on Mr. Jn. Mills & Messrs. Thos. Long-Smith lett & my having ~~refused to take the orders you sent me~~ return'd them to him. I have since my above mention'd letter in Octr. last recd. your protests of my Bills both in London & Paris duly authenticated: that in Paris of a very curious nature, particularizing your denying yourself to be the person on whom the Bill was drawn & saying it must have been your Brother &c. & altho your letter to me, dated in London the 22d. of May 1777 mentions your having recd. advice of my Bills on you for £190 Sterg. favour Messrs. Jenifer & Hoe & retaining money in your hands to pay it, my letters from Mr. Richd. Harrison, to whom they were ~~and~~ remitted on my account, either to purchase Goods for me in Martinique, or remit them for that purpose to France, shew that the said Bills, with my Letters of advice, were at that time in his hands in Martinique undisposed of; & Mr. Harrison who is now in Virginia, say they remain'd so, till some time in June, but I forbear to enlarge on so disagreeable a subject, & am truely concern'd that I have cause to complain of yr. having treated me with so little candour, to say no more of it. I beg I may no longer be trifled with; & that my order on you to Messrs. Penet D'Acosta frerres & Compy. may be forthwith paid; otherwise I shall be under the necessity of sending to France a proper power of Attorney, with all the accounts, Letters & Documents respecting this business, under the Seal of the Common Wealth & instituting a suit against you; which I do assure you, for the reasons I have before given you, will be extreamly disagreeable to me. I entreat you to let me hear from you soon & am Dr. Sir, Yr. most Obedt.

Servt. — (Signd) ~~Servt.~~ G. Mason

William Lee Esqr.

Mr. W. Lee answer'd the first of the foregoing Letters the 26 March & 10 May 1779. & the answer to the last goes with this. [N.B. The bill to Penet & Co. was presented for acceptance at Frankfort which was ~~refused~~ simply refused to be done without giving any reason or making any excuse for such refusal.]

The Honble the Plenipotentiarys of the
American United States, at Paris

Octr 8 - 1778
(No 249)

Honble Gentlemen

By the two days post. I had the honor of Your favor 30th ulto now before me and I find thereby, a want of authority. deprive me of either instructions or Advice from you in the concerns of the Public, farther then what respects the large Sume of money put into my hands by the Honble the Commissioners

It has been all along my own Opinion, that am only responsible to the Honble Committee of Congress for my management & am happie You say so. Neverthe-less, altho unauthorized to interfere with me, I beg leave to conceive your powers not only sufficient, to give advice when asked, in all the concerns of the United States, but upon assistance & directions on every necessary application.

It gives me concern that circumstances of Indecency, should be imputed to me, am truely at a loss to recollect in what Instance, Unless an Zeal to discharge a truste reposed in me be construed as Such.

I cannot however intertain an Idea, that the Honble Gentlemen Mr Franklin and Mr Adams. who am persuaded never intended me, nor any honest Man, an unprovoked injury, Can Suspect me capable of Indecency in the least degree to them. — If any part of my correspondence admit of a construction tending to it. I declare

it

it without any such intention. And I hope ever to pay The Honble Representatives of the States. that Attention & Respect due to their Characters

In the many improper Applications I have had, without powers to interfere with me. No great penetration is necessary to trace out its origine & intention. — Decency — I beg leave to observe is as much due to me, & to every Man, in a private Character (while that line of conduct & principle is preserved which I hope ever to maintain) as to those in the most exalted Station, Thus admited — Let me once more beg the further liberty to remind the Honble Plenipots of America — What Decency, & delicacy have been preserved to individuals of unexceptionable Characters, members of the united States — In a measure of Seizing their private Property and private Correspondence & executed under an assumed Right in particular, in an Arbitrary Governmt. for purposes best known to those Gentlemen who plan'd, and conducted the business — The Commercial Agent Mr Wm. Lee as late as last February, with a Decency peculiar to himself Addressed me without power to tender him my Accounts — The Honble A Lee Esqr. followed the example by a similar Application assuming the Authority to himself & Colleagues — And the Honble the Representatives of America in France, was influenced soon thereafter to apply likewise — & Surely. Repeated peremptory Applications on this Subject, could not but have had certain ends to Answer, Such as I conceived from its manner, not the

most

neat favourable nor reputable to my Character, and their opinion is Just imposed, as it immediately Succeeded the less Delicate measure against my Neighbours & Friends, whose unlimited confidence I have always experienced. how far the passings & insults they have sustained thereby, is to be vindicated, I leave to the consideration of those concerned. —

— The money put into my hands by the Hon.ble Commissioners, have been fully accounted for in the purchases made by me by order of the Hon.ble Committee of Congress for the United States, and I have had late assurances, that I may expecte funds, not only to replace such advances as I recd. from the Comrs. but to satisfye my other demands — believe me, I shall be glad how soon am enabled to bring those matters to a Settlement

At same time, from the duty I owe to my own Character, and that Precaution justifiable to counteract every Malevolent attempt to hurt me, by Insinuations or otherwise, in the Event of a miscarriage Permit me again to repeat, that I cannot venture to exercise my own Judgement, in forwarding the remaining part of the property still in France, (consisting of Blankets Clothing &c.) in consequence of Your interferance already, without a concurrance & positive instructions. circumstances, I intreate your consideration of, that You may determine how far am entitled to it, as well as the Consequences to the States from the delays already incurred.

The Wages due to the Officers & Crew of the Ship La Brune, should not be considered as advances to me, the Order of the Board at Boston

is

is recommended to the American Agent in France for the honour of the United States and altho my Security stands for the debt it was incumbent on Me to send it forward but if refused I must pay it, charging a Commission and Interest on the Advances which might be saved to the States by a Compliance with the order in the letter recommended.

My Letter to Mr. Williams would shew the Application of the Twenty thousand Livres furnished only by order of Mr. Deane. — In the mean time as this is likely to be the last Letter with which I shall trouble You untill I hear from America ✝ I beg the further freedom to mention the Copy of your Letter to Mr. Hodge, lately received from him, on the subject of his right and Assumption to the Management of the Cutter Revenge &c.ª Being Partly interested in this correspondence which however I conclude should not have taken place, if Mr. Deane acted under any Authority, in a certain line of business to my knowledge solely under his Management, & that the Honble. A L Esqr did but recollect & represent his own early knowledge of that transaction — Therefore, that the Honble. writers of the Letter to Mr. Hodge, may not entertain suspicions of a Clandestine Assumption & right on the part of the present Owners. I send herewith Copies of a Correspondence on the subject between the Honble. A. Lee and me previous to a conclusive agreement, or Mr. Hodges geting possession. — Had there then been any reasonable objection to the Sale of that part of the Public Property —. The Honble.

Honble Commissioners ought to have determined it immediately. Not only in point of duty. but from that Justice due to those of their Constituents, who Act with openness & Candour, and without design of fraud or imposition — I have the honour to be with all due Respect &c

Honble Gentlemen

Your very Obed^t: Servt

[signature]

Nantes 8 Oct.^ore 1778

John Ross

(No 249)

John Ross
to
Minister Plenipo.

(8 Octr. 1778.)

Octo: 8th 1778

Williamsburg Octr. 9th. 1778

My dear Colo.

(No. 242)

By Yesterday's Post I received your favors of the 12th. & 21st. ulto. for which I am much obliged to you. I think it necessary to inform you, by Way of Apology for my not having written to you for some Weeks past, that Business has carried me from home & out of the Way of every Post Office. Monday being the day on which our Assembly ought to have met, I came to town, but found barely a sufficient Number of Members to adjourn. Tuesday brought in a few more, on Wednesday we had a Call of the House & ordered the Absentees to be sent for by the Sergiant at Arms, and yesterday we had just a sufficient Number to make an House. I am concerned to see so great a Want of public Virtue among our Representatives for nothing can more strongly argue such a Depravity than the Zeal which many of these Men shew to get into Office, & their total Indifference to & Neglect of public Business afterwards. It seems as if they wished to exclude others from the House, that the Affairs of the State might ~~might~~ go undone. Adieu! my dear Sir,

Your affectionate Friend

Mann Page Junr.

to day we are to take into Consideration the Resolutions of Congress, & the President's Letter respecting S. Carolina.

~~No 377~~

Free

Richard Henry Lee Esquire

in Congress

Philadelphia

Mann Page Junr
esqr 1779. Oct. 9th
(~~No 277~~)
(No 262)

The Remark in the Margin is not founded; the Words such a Treaty evidently refer to the foregoing Description of the Treaty, which is taken from the Burgomasters own Declaration. B. F.

Passy, Oct. 16. 1778

[No 257]

We have received yours of the 2d Instant, with the Declaration sign'd by Mr Van Berckel, and his explanatory Letter to you, which give us much Pleasure, as they show the good Disposition of that respectable Body the Burgomasters of Amsterdam towards the United States of America, and their Willingness as far as may depend on them to promote, between the Republick of the United ~~[illegible]~~ Low Countries in Europe and the said States, "a Treaty of perpetual "Amity containing reciprocal Advantages with "respect to Commerce between the Subjects of the "two Nations." — "As that Body must be better acquainted than we with the Methods of doing public Business in their Country, and appear to be of Opinion that some previous Steps can be taken by them which may ~~[illegible]~~ facilitate and expedite so good a Work, when Circumstances shall permit its coming under the Consideration of their H. H. Mightinesses, we rely on their Judgement, and hereby request they would take those Steps, as explain'd in M. Van Berckel's Letter. And they may * be assured that such a Treaty (as is above described) ~~will be very~~ (would at this time meet with no obstacles on the part of) agreeable to the United States of America, who have

* M. Vanberkle's Letter proposes to have the commercial treaty w. France examined & accommodated to our present object, by some Merchants of Amsterdam. I submit therefore whether we can with propriety assure them that such a treaty w.d be agreeable before we have seen it; & whether it wou'd not be better to say — They may be assured that a treaty founded upon the principles of reciprocity & fair intercourse would at this time meet with no obstacles on the part of the United States — I put in, at this time, to leave room for them to [illegible] pretend that if delayed it may meet w.th obstacles. A. Lee

M. Dumas

Phily. Oct. 10. 1793

We have received yours of the 5th [illegible]

[illegible]

who have great Esteem & Respect for your Nation; and that nothing will be wanting on our Part to accomplish the End proposed. We would only remark, that the Mentioning it in the Declaration as a thing necessary to preceede the Conclusion of such a Treaty, that American Independence should be acknowledged by the English, is not understood by us, who conceive that there is no more Occasion for such an Acknowledgement before a Treaty with Holland, than there was before our Treaty with France. And we apprehend that if that Acknowledgement were really necessary, or waited for, England ~~would~~ might ~~probably~~ endeavour to make an Advantage of it in the future Treaty of Pacification, to obtain for it some Privileges in Commerce, perhaps exclusive of Holland. We wish therefore that Idea to be laid aside, and that no farther Mention may be made to us of England in this Business. We are,

Sir,

Your most obedient
humble Servants

or waited for, England &c. It seems to me that this apprehension cannot be press'd upon them too often, or too much; & therefore I wou'd propose to add the above, & leave out probably which weakens the argument.

A Lee

I cannot help repeating my opinion that a personal interview to state & urge the Arguments for an immediate conclusion woud succeed; & that such a treaty woud prevent our Enemies from venturing upon another campaign. A Lee Chaillot. Octr. 13th. 1778

The Commrs to M. Dumas
Oct. 16th 1778.

(No 257)

Rough to M. Dumas
Treaty

Arthur Lee Esqr. Bilbao the 13th Octor 1778.

Honoured Sir

Last post we had the Honour of paying our respects to you, to which beg leave to crave your kind reference, & as continue since deprived of your allways very esteemed favours the present will chiefly serve to Informe you the safe arrivall with us In 27 days passage from New Bury port loaden with Tobaco & Flax Seed to our address of the letter of Marque Brigantine the Phenix commanded by James Babson & as by him have received the within News paper under datte of the 3d of Septr. have thought proper to Transmmitt the same to your hands which hope will merritt your kind approvation. It seems that after the Count D'Estains arrivall at Boston Generall Sullivan retreatted from Rhode Island without hardly any loss, which is no small happyness. It is also repportted by Capt. Babson that Lord Howe with a Fleett of 20 sail pursued the Count clear up to Boston, butt our letters from thence under the 5th of Septemr. mentione nothing of this.

We Sincerely Salutte you & respectfully remmain

Honoured Sir

Your mo. affec. obt. hble. Servts.

Joseph Gardoqui & sons

We have the pleasure to Informe you that the Schooner Tabby Capt. Hoadge arrived safe at Marblehead.

you'l also find Inclosed Two other News paper which have received since writting the above & likewise an Account that a sensible young Man Capt. of Marines on Board of Babson has given us of the Action In Rhode Island on Generall Sullivan's retreat all which hope will be agreable.

Marseilles 12th. Octo.r 1778

Sir

I have before me Copy of your esteemed favor of the 26 July, and your two originals of the 19th. Aug.st & 30th. Ult.o, to all whose Contents I have paid due attention, & shall now have the pleasure of replying.

Mr. Schweighauser forwarded me sometime since the thirds of his remittances for L.s 14437. 15. 1, which I negotiated immediately on their receit, and having heard nothing of them since, conclude them regularly discharged. That Sum is indeed the exact amo.t of the Invoice of the Medicines shipped by me in June 1777 for acco.t of the United States of America but exclusive of Interest on my advances, Loss on the Negociation of the Bills, Brok.ge, Post.ge &c., which Charges being deducted leave still a Ballance in my favor of L.s 12[illegible]. 5. agreeable to the Acco.t Curr.t I transmitted Mr. Schweighauser on the 9th Ult.o, a Copy whereof he will no doubt have handed you — and in order to close the acco.t accordingly, I at sametime drew upon that Gentleman for the said Ballance p.ble in Paris at Usance & 1/2, and handed him Draft for acceptance. but he tells

me

me in answer that he has no orders to that effect, and consequently been obliged to write for such, which he expected to receive in time to return me my Bill accepted before it becomes due, which I wait accordingly in order to transmit conclusive Acco.ts of the Transaction to the Committee of Correspondence at Philadelphia and I hope that you will kindly expedite the same as far as it may lay in your power, which will be obliging —

I observe that your orders for Medicines were given [as] Commissioner, not as Commercial Agent, but fear it will now be very difficult to execute them, at least direct for the Continent, as the risk is become so very great that few or no Houses here care to adventure in that Commerce, notwithstanding the arrival of Monsieur D'Estaing, and I believe it would be a very difficult matter to get insurances done in Marseilles for No. America, at almost any premium, the danger being almost double from hence what it is from the No. of France on acct. of the passage through the Streights of Gibraltar, which has never prove fatal to our Ships whilst Spain remains neuter; however something perhaps might be done by way of the french W. I. Islands for which Conveyances are yet plenty enough.

Sweet Mercury is very different from what we understand here by Calomel or Calamus aromaticus, which is a kind of Root, if that be not what you call Calomel, I know not what that Drug is, so called with you — Copenhagen

Rhubarb

we regard as superior to that of China or Turkey which are less dear – We reckon 16 ounces to the pound, but it must be remarked that our Weight is about 12 ℘C^t. less than the English, and 20 ℘C^t. inferior to that of Paris –

In about a month hence Dates may be had here, when I will with much pleasure endeavor to procure and send you some fresh and attached to their Branches as you describe –

I have made application to our Admiralty Court for Mr Izard's Baggage taken on board the [illegible]; but am sorry to inform you that I cannot obtain their restitution without an express order from Monsieur de Sartines or the Council appointed upon Prizes at Paris, who it seems have the sole Direction of these matters. I wrote Mr Izard so two posts ago, and you will oblige me by acquainting him with a Confirmation of my offers of my services. [illegible] La Tour has since then delivered [illegible] which I hold at his disposal

I have the honor to be very respectfully

Sir

Your most Obed^t Servt.

Etienne Cathalan

My Son begs leave to return you his Complements

Arthur Lee Esqr.

also to find a number of volunteer sailors.

In answer I expressed my opinion, that the U.S. would be benefitted by affording this number of men for your expedition; that so large a force in the west Indies would compel the enemy to draw away much of their Force from New York, for it was certain they were not in a condition at home to afford supplies of men &c. But I told them, that the whole must be left for your decision, that these discussions were only preliminary, but that the views I had expressed would require some new expressions & combinations on their part.

From M. Gerard. – Discussions in Congress. –

4 oct. Congress much divided in its deliberations – jealousies, and personal motives – particularly in regard to foreign appointments – a great deal of time wasted in debating this subject. The article about molasses in the treaty has caused much excitement. One party ascribe it to Deane, – & Dr Franklin does not escape the censure of having had too much agency in it – the south considers it as resulting wholly to the advantage of the east – but the topic is chiefly seized as a point of opposition. Congress sits morning & evening, except Wednesday & friday, yet they do little. There is a strife with one party to nominate foreign commissioners before a vote of approbation of Deane's conduct shall render him qualified for an appointment. Many of the distinguished members of congress aspire to a foreign appointment, among whom is the president (Laurens).

---

12 oct. Arthur Lee wrote a letter to Ct. Vergennes, in which he suggested that in his capacity of minister from the U.S. to Spain, it might be proper for him to propose to treat with that nation, and giving many reasons for taking such a step. The letter is of

some importance. A very short answer was returned, dated Oct. 17; in which Ct. Vergennes says, - "mon sentiment est que vous agiriez prudemment en suspendant les démarches que vous ~~désireriez faire~~ desireriez faire à la Cour de Madrid pour connaître ses principes et ses résolutions à l'égard de l'Amérique."

Mr Lee answered the next day, that he should strictly conform to this advice.

---

20 oct.

G. + Ct. V.

From M. Gerard. - Conquest of Canada - navigation of the Mississippi - and other topics relating to a union of action with France.

Congress appointed a committee to confer with the Mis. Lafayette before his departure for France. Two questions were asked him. 1°. Whether it was probable ~~that~~ the king of France thought of transferring the theatre of war between France & England to the United States, - 2°. On the supposition that Congress resolved on an expedition to Canada & Halifax, what would be the best means of inducing the king of France to unite in the enterprise.

As to the first point, he answered, that he could see no possible reason why the Kg of France should make America the theatre of the war; that after the demonstrations which he had given of his sincere regard to the interests of the U. S. there could be no ground for a supposition, that he thinks of carrying on the war in America to annoyance & injury of the people, when the expense would be at least as great as in transferring it to England itself, or to any other part of the British dominions; ~~that~~ he presumed the war would ~~would~~ be directed to such points only, as were best suited to attacking & weakening the enemy.

As to the 2d question, he could only add, that the king would of course be influenced by events & combinations as they arose, & that the best

Sir

Having been informed by Extracts of Letters written by your worthy brother at Francfort, to my Protector the french Ambassador at Vienna, of your [illegible] in my favour, [illegible] leave to return you my most sincere thanks & to Assure you, I shall ever retain a just sense of the Obligation you will confer on me, by employing your influence in procuring for me the post of Consul or Commercial Agent for the Americans in this City. On being informed of the Power given to the Commissioners by the Congress to Appoint Commercial Agents in the different Ports of this Kingdom, I wrote to Mr. Grand to renew his Sollicitations in my favour, but he Answered that the Commissioners had not as yet received Orders to Appoint Consuls, by which it appears

that he makes a distinction between a Commercial Agent & what is here called a Consul, whereas they are exactly the same, if as I suppose, the Congress means by Commercial Agents, persons Chiefly employed to Assist Captains of Ships in any difficultys they may meet during their [illegible] in foreign Ports & to inform them of [illegible] to be Observed in such Ports immediately on their Arrival there for the security & Advantage of Trade those employed for this purpose are called here indifferently des Consuls ou des Agents du Commerce I thought it may be necessary to give you this Eclaircissement, to prevent any mistake relative to the Object of my pursuit, by an Equivocation of Terms, & as it is absolutely necessary for the person Appointed to Act in the above Capacity, to be equally conversant in the French & English, as well as thoroughly versed in Commercial

Matters I flatter myself to be as well Qualified to fulfill this Post, as any person in this City; let me therefore request good Sir your kind interposition in my favour which will imprint an indelibl.e Obligation on

Sir

Your most humble
and Obedient servant
M: Comyn

Marseille 14th October 1778

(1)

Richard Henry Lee Esq.r

Frankfort on the River Maine
in Germany Oct. 15. 1778.

My D.r B.r

I wrote to you the 21.st Ult.o from Paris, when I sent Congress a Copy of a Plan of a Treaty between the seven United Provinces of ~~Holl~~ the Netherlands & the United States of America; which had been digested by me & an eminent Dutch Merch.t of Amsterdam who represented the Pensionary of that City. I sent also from Paris a Duplicate copy of this plan to Congress, & a copy of my Letter to you. by this Conveyance I send a 3.d Copy of this Plan & have wrote pretty fully to which be pleased [illegible] How the Com.rs at P. will proceed with this treaty, can't be positively said, but I conceive it will go, as I mentioned in my last of which you have a copy. In your replys to me, pray note the particular dates of such letters as you receive from me, as also whether they are originals or the 1.st or the 2.d Copies.

You will receive with this a power of Attorney relative to the Estate in Virginia & the necessary Letters. The determinations you take in this business & the conduct of it afterwards, you are very sensible, will be of such high and lasting importance to me and mine, that I am sure you will deliberate fully with our D.r B.r F. L. L. before you take any measures in it, or communicate the design to any person whatever, & if the resolution is to sell, I think no time should unnecessarily be lost. All this your wisdom & judgement will direct properly, but I beg you will

will give me the earliest & repeated information of what you do deter-
mine on, & particularly relative to the plan or constitution of the
Continental Loan Office. Besides by the Public Expresses, which
are generally the safest with regard to the Enemy, you may write
by the way of Nantes, or to the care of Mr. John Bondfield Merch.t
in Bourdeaux. I have before me y.r following letters. 25 Jan. 78
from G. Spring — 13 May 78 from York & one Copy of it — & 16 June 1777
which you sent by the Eastward & only came to hand last month.

With respect to the first, the most material part is answered by
the power now sent. Ellis sent me his Acc.t by which I perceive
the number of Negroes are less than when they were divided. Now
the Courts are open, 'tis presumeable that Fauntleroy may be made
to account for what he has rec.d from the Estate. 'Tis now upw.ds
of 3 Years since I rec.d one shilling from the Estate, & the last
remittance in 1775, was ab.t 15 hhds of Tob.o & £40 or £50 Ster.g
this considered, I can't suppose it will be expected that I should
be able to send any supplies from Europe, until something
~~in any thing~~ is sent that will enable me to do so.

Those who have claims on me for Ballances in consequence
of former mercantile transactions, must be sensible that
while such large ballances are detain'd from me in this Coun-
try, I cannot pay their bills here, therefore if they draw, their bills
will be returnd. Besides, if it was ever so much in my power
I can't see the Justice or reason for my paying in Europe, wh.t
I owe, & being obliged to receive in this Country (or not receive it at all)

what is owing to me, at a loss of 5 or 600 ₤ C^y. — On the principle then of equal Justice, I hope my B^r. F. L. L. will pay off all my Creditors without distinction, in the same manner & with the same Currency that he receives from my Debtors.

The crop of Tob^o. made in 1777, I suppose will be sold in the Country where I am inform'd the price has been 65/. 70/. & upw^ds. ₱ hund^d. W^t. the Crop made in 1778 I w^d. not have you in a hurry about dispos^g of it, because tis probable that sh^d. the War continue another year France will judge it advisable to afford Convoys for the American trade & particularly to Virginia, in which case my Tob^o. may be sent to Europe always consign'd to myself or order. —

I hear a good account of M^r. Ellis from various quarters, & if you determine on keeping the Estate, I shall hope he will continue but in that case, I wish the removal of the people backwards and forwards from one plantation to another may as much as possible be avoided, because it prevents me from clearly determining ab^t. their increase or decrease. I will order the few things M^r. Ellis desires to be sent by the first good op^ty from France, with some bark for y^r. Self, the Wines of that Country are all very improper for y^r. habit, subject to the gout. Besides, the Medicines sent by M^r. King, y^r. Son Thom, was order'd to send 2 ℔ of Bark by the Independence Capt. Young & the same quantity by another op^ty, all which I paid for. — I am sure you know me well enough to be certain of my lasting gratitude for the care & attention you have bestow'd on me & my concerns, which I hope you will continue. Ludwell has grown much of late, is likely in his person, fond of reading & has a good genius, so that I think he will do very well, especially as he must early in life learn to provide for himself, which will force his natural talen talents into full exercise in due Season. He is still with his Uncle. —

4

Thom is still with Mr. Schweighauser & if I may judge from his Letters, he improves a good deal & besides, I understand Mr. S. has began to employ him in active business, which from his great caution & circumspection I think he wd. not do, unless Thom: was trustworthy. He shall continue where he is, until I can find some better plan for him, indeed he is still but 20 years old & another years apprenticeship will be perhaps requisite to give him a proper knowlege of business. I mention'd before one of [illegible] letters by the bye I have reason to apprehend has been intercepted and kept by Mr. D.) & I hope you will not forget it, that whenever the Idea is taken up of appointing Consuls in France, I cou'd wish you wd. endeavour to get Mr. Edwd. Browne my former Partner appointed Consul at L'Orient if it is fixd on for a free Port, if it is not, for Dunkirk or Holland — I know his worth intimately well & can answer for his principles. By all means prevent the power of nominating Consuls from being delegated to any Person in Europe, for really at present a certain person, 1bg bXXI in. seems to think that Congress is bound to follow his Mandates, & that it is highly presumptuous to do any thing without his orders.

I have always admired the wisdom of Congress, & am sure if they have determin'd wrong on any occasion, it has been owing to their being misinform'd & deceived. Their Wisdom is evident in the express orders they have given relative to the application of the money they have order'd to be borrowed in Europe & I assure you it will be necessary to repeat them frequently, for notwithstanding the positive orders you have already given, attempts, I am well inform'd, have been made to divert the money into another channel & employ it in the old way. I have no doubt that 115 bXXXVIII will 92 b·XXVII — 259 bXXXII with 100 a XXVIII. which wd. not have been the case had 426. b XXVIII, taken care to £ 177 a XVI. 415 a X. timely 39 b·11. of his 305 b·XXX. 'Tis of infinite importance to have the earliest notice of important resolutions, & some

hints

hints how parties stand with you 'tis sufficient to mention only the initial letters of peoples names, & I must beg you to be particularly cautious in showing my letters to any person whatever except Loudoun for in times like the present, he that professes himself the greatest Friend today may tomorrow prove your bitterest Foe. A person that I dare say you could not suspect, has I understand mention'd on this side the Water by way of reproach to me, the contents ~~of some~~ of some of my letters to you, which he says you show'd him. In y.r last letter, the date of which I have forgot, having put the letter among a number of papers & can't immediately lay my hands upon it, you advise me to be cautious in my public proceedings — I thank you for the hint, at the same time assure you, that I have been in all points as circumspect as it was possible for me to be, & if by any intrigues, what I have done with Holland should not be approved by C. I shall never expect approbation unless I turn Rogue like others, & mind my own private Interest more than that of the Public. — I know more than one instance on this side the Water, of persons who two years ago to my certain knowlige were not worth one shilling, without a prospect of ever becoming richer, that under the pretext of serving the public are now become men of Capital Fortune; one in particular 373a XXXIV 253 b XXI. of 169 b XXIin, I am sure in the above time has made £40,000 Ster.g without one shilling to begin with, of his own. & I fancy M.r Ross the friend of M.r R. M. has done much more. I have been ab.t 18 Months in the Public Service & have not made one shilling for myself but on the Contrary have sacrificed several thousand pounds, by leaving England. I have never yet asked anything from Congress but when they do send a Commissioner to Holland, I profess, as my former line of Life has been changed I should not dislike that appointm.t [illegible] of Lisbon, & I think if any change takes place in my present department, there is no person so proper as D.r Franklin to be sent to Vienna. At all events I am determin'd to attend to the appointment of Virginia — My B.r & myself have already done a good deal & I am now

endeavor.g

6/

endeavouring to borrow the money to compleat their orders, & if there is occasi-on you may assure the State that I will do every thing that is possible to comply with all their orders. It wd. have been very agreeable, & will be so still, to know by whose means & from what motives my Commercial line was changed to a Political one. I am inclined to believe the true motive was, to get me out of the Way of my former mercantile associates. M

I hope you have been sufficiently upon yr. guard against the Intrigues of C—— whose real character you must be fully possessed of; but if I am not mistaken he has found very able supporters who only mean to make him the instrument of bringing D. to Justice — You know the com-mon saying "set one Rogue to catch another", but still, neither the one or the other shd. be trusted. — Mr. D. will no doubt make the most of the credentials & the advocate he carried, or rather, that he went with — Wise men however, without saying much, will know well how to apprize both justly. Verbum Sapienti satest. Take care of yourselves, & trust not too much to others.

You will excuse my saying one Word with respect to yourself; I know you so well that I am sure you will sacrifice your time & Estate in the Public Service, as you have always done heretofore, without gaining one single shilling for yourself; but do not involve yourself in unneces-sary embarrassments, that only tend to shield those plunderers, who have grown fat on the public spoil — You have been a Member of the Marine & Commercial Committees & Board of War, thro' these Channels most of the Public Money must have been spent; I am sure you have not touched any of it, tho' a great deal may have been misapplyed; to save the Public & exculpate yourself you can't be too urgent in insisting on those several bodies making up their Accts. & returning them to Congress, & if anything is objected to what has been done, let those answer for it who have had the chief direction & have finger'd the Public money.—

While writing I have recd. considerable pleasure in la...

by

by accident from the American papers how Congress have treated the 2d foolish & impertinent letter from the British Comissioners indeed Governor Johnstone should not be permitted to send his silly & ridiculous, tho' wicked & infamous letters into the Country. I am ass- red that 3 Months ago -ders were sent to the B. Comrs to treat with you on your own terms but since that, the B. Ministry, or rather their Master, growing bold on a few French prizes being taken & the hopes that Count D'Estaing's fleet will be destroyed the present determination is to continue the War another year & Howe is to return to the command. Thus you see their determinations change like the wind, but you may decide positively yourself whether the War will be continued another year or not, when you know the full issue of this Campaign — for Nothing but dire will compel the silly Mule, to relinquish his wicked attempts against you; therefore provide accordingly & in time. I trust you will not quit Congress until Peace & regular order afterwards is establish'd unless you sh'd be call'd home to fill the important place of Govr there. Heaven bless you Adieu. W. L.

Richard Henry Lee Esquire
Member of Congress for the State
of Virginia, at Congress.

Dear Sir Wmsburg [?] Octr 9th 1778

I this Moment received your Letter of the 1st Instant inclosing the Vote of Congress respecting the Cannon in North Carolina. The Board have not yet had Leisure to consider whether they will accept of them on the Terms proposed or not — I have just received a Letter from Dr Lee informing me that he expects to procure the ~~Cannon~~ & other Military Stores which our Board had written to Mr Wm Lee to purchase for this State. The Letter is of an old Date May 27 1778 & therefore contains no News but the Dr says he had been informed that the British Army was to be withdrawn leaving a strong Garrison at Halifax & that the Fleet was to exert the whole Force in annoying our Coasts & cutting off our Trade by these Means endeavouring to worry us into a compliance with the Commissioner's Propositions — I congratulate you on the Success of the French Fleet

P.S. Since writing the within the Board have directed the Agent for the State to pay for the Cannon immediately should they be approved of by the [illegible] — I have inclosed you a Copy of the Paper you sent me & which you received from the Commercial Committee to shew you that they have committed an Error somewhere in their State of the Account

J. R. [?]

113

on the english Coast – This with the News of the Loss of Dominica & the Frigates in the West Indies & those at Rhode Island added to the severe Check their whole Naval Force has received in America & the Defeat of their Army in two Battles must give a Shock to the british Ministry that I think they will not be able to withstand – The Minority must gain Strength every Day – & I should even say that the Militia having Arms in their Hands may feel themselves of Importance enough to begin to think & judge for themselves & if so there must be at least a Change of Minis[ters] & Measures. The Independence of America & Peace with France may be the Consequence of this An Event truly desirable – but I confess that I am almost afraid of making Peace with England before the deep rooted Prejudices of some of our Countrymen in Favor of that Artful People are eradicated – or at least before we can conquer the Aversion too many Americans have conceived against the French

I really am apprehensive if a Peace were shortly to take Place that the English would again engross nearly the whole Trade of America, ingratiate

themselves so with us, as almost to wheedle us into some Connections with them which might prove fatal to our Liberties; especially after they had sufficiently undermined the French Interest in America & had worked their Court up to a proper Pitch of Jealousy & Resentment – So that though I ardently wish for Peace yet I am almost afraid of its Consequences. I fear we have not Wisdom & Virtue enough to conduct ourselves properly in such a trying Situation when that Luxury, Avarice & Indolence which we see already possessing so many American Breasts to the utter exclusion of every virtuous Sentiment or feelings for their Country may be so much more compleatly indulged & gratified – And yet, such is our unhappy Situation, from a thousand concurring Circumstances, that I dread the Consequences of another Campaign – Should the French Fleet be obliged to leave us for want of proper Supplies, or be called off to the West Indies or to Europe & should the Enemy discovering the Difficulties we shall be under of supplying our Army with Provisions, resolve to quit New-York & Rhode Island – I fear we shall want more Virtue to support us than can be easily found in such an Emergency – But Heaven forbid that we should have any such Occasion for such Exertions of Virtue – Adieu my dear Sir & believe me to be y^rs John Page –

Jno Page
Octr 15th 1778

Richard Henry Lee Esqr.

My Dr. Brother. Frankfort on the River Main in Germany Oct. 17. 1778.

I send you with this some Magazines & Parliamentary Registers of last Session — my remote situation prevents me from being able to send you more things in this way or the English papers; surely you must get all these things from Paris, for tho' the F. & G. B. have for some time been at actual War, yet as there has not been any formal declaration, the com:munication between London & Paris is as open as in times of pro:found peace. To what I have said to ye Comee relative to the plan of a treaty with Holland, I will add, that it is said, the States Genl. in their Grand meeting since my meeting with Mr. De Neufville have seriously deliberated about openly acknowleging the American Independence — how the deliberation has ended I can't yet learn, however it seems to me pretty clear that from what has been done, England will be effectually precluded from getting any suc:cours from H—d either against us or our Ally France. The con:duct of Spain is utterly inscrutable to us at a distance, but from some hints given me from E—d I judge that there is a tryal of Skill between the E—h & Sp—h Ministry who shall outwit the other in negotiation; the latter demand the cession of Gibral:ter as the price of their neutrality, which the former flatter them with obtaining at the same time they are taking as much precau:tion as their Strength will admit to secure it, & with great

117

assiduity they insinuate L^d. Mansfields old Jesuitical argument, that your Independence will be a dangerous precedent for the Spanish possessions in America. The Spaniards must soon I think see that the E. M-y mean only to impose on them, for they are in general a solid & clear sighted people — They wish too, that America sh^d. give them the Floridas, perhaps it may not be unwise to agree to their hav^g. S^t. Augustine w^h. no very large district around it, on their agree^g to allowing us a free navigation on the Mississippi, provided they have so little sense as to desire S^t. A.

This I mean only on the supposition that they join us openly if G. B. sh^d. foolishly continue the War another year. This measure I understand they at present think of, being buoyed up by a few Captures made on the French Commerce, & in that case Genl. Howe is to return to command in chief; but you may form a pretty decided judgement on this head yourself by the issue of the present Campaign in Am^a. by Sea & Land — If the British forces are successful the War will continue, if on the contrary they are beaten. G. B. will be anxious for Peace; in which business of course the opposition will give the Ministry all the trouble they can, & in particular L^d. [illegible] & his, tres petite partie; for his L^d.ship has latterly shewn himself to the World, what I always tho't him, a worthless & wicked character. However the Ministry can with perfect ease carry any thing thro' P—t that they please, for the K. of G. B. may now say with all the other Monarchs of Europe, Sic Volo, Sic Jubeo.

With respect to Germany the campaign here has ended without any thing material or decisive having passed — The Military abilities of the K. of P. & his B^r. Prince Henry still shine conspicuous; tho' the Emperor & his Generals have obtain'd as

much

much as they could have expected, which was to prevent the Prussians from Wintering in Bohemia. The K. of P. is to winter in Silesia & P. H. in Saxony. The Political negotiations are becoming very violent both the E. & the K. of P. have call'd on all the Empire at the general Diet to join them, but the members assembled in the Diet have not yet taken part with either side. The Electorate of Hanover has greatly increased its Army to upwards of 20000 Men — the K. of P. expects to have them on his side & the E. hopes to keep them neuter, in this situation neither can in prudence openly take part with us but 'tis expected that by the Spring some certain system will be form'd when we may see our way clearer than at present, for which purpose I wait here as a central & neutral place to watch the first favourable opening of advancing the Interest of America. There is no speaking with certainty, but at present it seems to me most probable that our connexion with Austria will take place before it does with Prussia; & perhaps on the whole, the former will be more advantageous than the latter.

I am greatly obliged to you for the paper containg the Congress proceedings relative to the Br. h Acts of Parl. which gave infinite pleasure & has confirm'd ~~the~~ high opinion that this part of the War entertain'd of the wisdom & firmness of Congress. It will be of considerable service if you keep me well inform'd of what passes with you & particularly to furnish me with authentic accounts early of the military operations, whether favourable or unfavorable.

Besides by the way of France, you may write to me by the way of Holland to the care of Mess.rs De la Lande & Fajnse Merch.ts in Amsterdam. —

Some years ago there was a Comp.y partin Am.a & partin G. B. petition.g the K. of G. B. for a grant of lands on the Ohio by the Name I think of the

Vandalia Compy. for which Mr. Saml. Wharton of Phila. was sent to Londn. as Agent & I believe remains there as such at present. This Grant was, it has been said, promised, but never given. Now 'tis reported that Congress has resolved to confirm this Grant to ye. Compy. which I trust is not true, because I can't suppose that Congress wd. give away Lands, that are unquestionably the property of the State of Virginia & because a very great part of that Compy. are abandon'd Tories & the most violent & blood thirsty Enemies that America has.

I see by Mr. Simn. Deane's Letter from Virga. to his Br. Silas in France which was intercepted by the English & published in the Londn. papers that Govr. Henry told him, a Land Office wd. soon be open'd for the sale of the back lands in Virginia — this appears to one an important business & shd. not be entird upon hastily. They certainly will sell higher & be settled faster abt. the end of the War. I am sorry that the first mode of fixing the proportion of Each States contribution to the general fund, by the number of Souls in each State, has been changed to the Value of Lands &c in each State; the first mode was most certainly the fairest & best for all, but Mr. J. A. says it was the southern people who insisted on the Alteration & particularly F. L. L.

W L

I have consider'd the subject of Taxation with a great deal of attention & from seeing the Vicious modes practised in almost every part of Europe, I am convinced that, except the triffling taxes on Luxury & what may be necessary for the regulation of Commerce, a poll tax & on Land will ever be found the most equitable, the easiest collected & most productive of nett revenue, of any others. I should be happy therefore to find such a mode adopted & continued in Virginia. —

As to this Country (Germany) the poor are miserable, still it is full of useful Manufactures for America, whose productions will find a profitable market here; therefore there must be a great connection between the two Countries; but this is a disagreeable Country to live in, particularly at Vienna which is five times as extravagant & expensive as either Paris or London. The Language is the most difficult in the World to learn, & when learnt horrible to speak.

Our sincerest Love & affection attend you and yours. Farewell. W. L.

17 Oct 78

Copie d'une Lettre adressé à Monsieur Lee Deputé des Etats unis de l'Amerique.

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, la Lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 12 de ce mois; j'en ai examiné le contenu avec une attention analogue à l'interet que je prends à tout ce qui peut avoir trait à la prosperité des Etats unis, et mon sentiment est, que vous agirez prudemment en suspendant les démarches que vous desireriez faire à la Cour de Madrid pour connoitre ses principes et ses resolutions à l'égard de l'amerique. J'ai l'honneur d'être tres parfaitement, Monsieur, votre tres humble & tres obeisant Serviteur.

(Signé) DeVergennes

A Versailles le 17. 8bre 1778

Vrai Copie de l'original

A. Lordsel

Pa 5 Sh

(No. 213)

My dear Brother, Philadelphia Octr. 19. 1778

Monsieur the Marquis de la Fayette having done me the honor to take a letter for you, I am happy in the opportunity of bringing two men acquainted with each other whom I greatly love. All good men in these United States esteem the Marquis for his brave and generous attachment to the cause of America, and for the services he has here performed as a General in our Army. It is impossible that a person of such worth should not feel the obligation of returning to offer service to his country when engaged in war. Yet the Marquis still continues a Major General in the Army of the United States, and we hope will be permitted by his Sovereign to come back more effectually to our aid, by adopting the plan proposed by Congress, for an account of which I refer you to the Marquis.

Be so kind as introduce my son Ludwell to the Marquis, and charge the Youth to respect Monsr. Fayette as the much esteemed friend of his father. I am my dear brother most affectionately yours

Richard Henry Lee

R H Lee to F. L. Lee
Oct 19th 1778
(4 leaves) (No 263)
~~(Nos: 170)~~

R. H. Lee
~~No 6~~
No 170

Copie d'une Lettre addressé à Mr. Lee Deputé des Etats Unis de l'Amerique.

Je vous fais tous mes remerciemens Monsr. des nouvelles d'Amerique que vous m'aves communiquées. Elles ne sont pas aussi satisfaisantes que nous le desirerions, mais il y a lieu de croire que l'Escadre Angloise n'aura pas été plus Epargnée que la françoise par la tempête. Il est facheux que cet accident ~~aient~~ ait forcé Mr. le Comte d'Estaing à se retirer a Boston, mais vous pouvés etre assuré Monsieur qu'il n'aura pas pris le parti sans la necessité la plus manifeste.

J'ai l'honneur d'etre tres parfaitement Monsieur votre tres humble & tres obeisant serviteur

(Signé) DeVergennes.

Versailles le 19. 8bre. 1778.

Vrai Copie de l'original

A. Lee

1778		Count de Vergennes to Ar. Lee
April	17.	
	19	
	24	
June	5	
	10	
Aug.	3	
Oct	17	
	19	

Missives between the Count De Vergennes & Dr. Lee — Berkenhouts affair.

Missives between Count de Vergennes & Dr. Lee on various subjects. Berken=
-houts &c &c — & between same
Minister & hon. John Adams

P in S. L. Mc   Poughkeepsie Octb.r 20. 1778

[No 2684]

Dear Sir

I should have written to you before this time had any thing occurred worth troubling you with. The Independant Citizen would also have paid his respects to you again & again, if the poor fellow could have had but a Garret to himself where he might quietly reduce his thoughts into writing. The humble habitation wherein I have lived, & to which our family were driven by the Enemy, is so small & so crouded, & consequently so noisy & full of interruption, that it is impossible for a person accustomed to digest his thoughts in silence, to pursue, under such circumstances, the plan I had formed.

The situation however which I am now in, being three days ago elected a Senator of this State, may perhaps enable me to be of some service. It may give me an opportunity to cooperate with you in checking the abuses we have together observed & regretted in the public business of the Continent; and in calling to account & punishing the Delinquents & their Abettors. Should such or any other occasion occur wherein I may promote the public Service, I hope you will not be ceremonious in mentioning it to me.

Sensible as I am how exceedingly culpable in several respects Mr. D's conduct was; having great room to suspect that it was much worse in others, and being persuaded that much injury will accrue to the Public if he should escape with impunity, I hope a

free

free enquiry has been made into it. If that has not yet been done & may still be done, I will do my utmost to bring it on. In public matters of such importance nothing should be left doubtful or in the dark. Attempts to evade a full & free enquiry, or to slur over any fact, imply guilt in the Agent himself, and a criminal partiality or indifference in the Managers for the public. — While I was in Philadelpa; it was, I think, debated, whether Mr. D should give a Detail of his Transactions abroad in Writing, or Viva Voce: I think it was carried for the latter, and that the three N. J. Delegates voted for it. I wish you would set me right on this head; & let me into as many other particu-lers as are necessary to judge of the whole Affair. I had at that time more than sufficient reason to suspect that One of our Delegates was using & would use undue methods in favour of Mr. D; and I now wish to be clear whether they voted for his Detail being Viva Voce, & what part they have since taken in the business; because if it should appear from their voting on that or any other question, that they have acted with partiality or unbecoming indulgence, I would bring the Affair before our Legislature, I would state what I know of D's transactions, I would mention M's attempt to suppress my evidence against D, and move to have One or more of the Delegates recalled to explain their Conduct, or to have public Instructions sent them to insist on a full & accurate investigation of the whole business. Nothing however can be attempted until I know what has been done in the Affair, & what share our Delegates took in it.

After all, the Affair may now perhaps be over. Nevertheless, I beg you will favour me with a Line as soon as possible: the

sooner

sooner the better. I beg also that you will present my respects to all friends, and that you will believe me to be, with great regard & esteem

Dear Sir

Your Most Ob.t & humble Serv.t:

James Jay

P.S. Direct to me at Fishkill,
State of New York. —

Rich.d Hen.y Lee Esq.r

Sir James Jay

to

R. H. Lee

No. 100

~~Receipt~~

Sir Jas. Jay (N.Y.

Oct. 20th. 78.

~~No. 100.~~ (No. 364)

(Deane)

Answer within

21 8bre

Monsieur

J'ai reçû la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire et jointe la Copie d'une expedition d'un Batiment marchand de la Virginie et vous ajoutez Monsieur qu'on doit trouver dans les Registres les autres expeditions des Vaisseaux Marchands de la même forme dans tous les autres Provinces. Je vous remercie, Monsieur, et je ne manquerai pas de l'envoyer à Naples pour l'instruire à bien reconoitre dans les Ports des deux Siciles votre Pavillon, et vos Vaisseaux Marchands. J'ai deja moyenant

les faveurs de vos Collegues tous les couleurs
du Pavillon des états Unis, je vous prie
de les remercier aussi de ma part.

J'ai écrit à ma Cour pour savoir les
propres termes de L'Ordre donné dans
nos Ports, jusqu'à present je l'ignore, et
d'abord qu'il m'en parviendra un détail
j'aurai l'honneur de vous en faire part par
écrit;

Je suis en attendant avec la plus
parfaite Consideration

Monsieur

Marly ce 21. 8.bre 1778.

Votre tres humble
et obeissant serviteur
L'Ambassadeur de Naples

Ambassador of Naples

Ambassador of Naples

In Congress Octobr. 22d. 1778.

Resolved That the Committee for foreign Affairs be directed to inform the Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of France and the Commissioners of the United States at the respective Courts in Europe that it is the Desire of Congress that Congress the Harmony and good Understanding should be cultivated between the Ministers Commissioners & Representatives of this Congress at the respective Courts of Europe, and that such Confidence & Cordiality take place among them as is necessary for the Honor & Interest of the United States.

Extracts from the Minutes

Chas Thomson secy.

C No 257

(No 252)

Resolve of Congress

touching

The Harmony of Foreign

Ministers at France between them,

(22 Oct. 1778.)

8111

In Congress. Oct. 22. 1778.

Resolved, That the Committee for foreign Affairs be directed to inform the Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of France and the Commissioners of the United States at the respective Courts in Europe; that it is the Desire of Congress, that Harmony and good Understanding should be cultivated between the Ministers Commissioners and Representatives of this Congress at the respective Courts of Europe; and that such Confidence and Cordiality take place among them as is necessary for the honor & Interest of the United States.

Extract from the Minutes
Chas. Thomson Secy.

a true Copy
attest. W. T. Franklin

(N° 253)

Oct. 24. '78

Monsieur

Comme il seroit possible que l'ordinaire d'angleterre manquât demain, j'ai cru vous faire plaisir de vous procurer la lecture de ces contre déclarations du gouverneur Johnstone et des trois autres Commissaires — J'en ai fait une traduction pour M. le Cte. de Vergennes; et je compte l'employer dans le N°. 58. des affaires d'angleterre. Mais il seroit essentiel que ce ne fut pas sans une sorte de réponse à toutes les calomnies et injures que contiennent ces pieces tant

contre le Congrez et ses membres qui ont discredité l'alliance —— Voici deux ans attendre à voir ces indignes Ecrits dans le Courier de l'Europe qui les exposera nuement a ses lecteurs. Moi, j'y mettrois un correctif, pour redresser le jugement que chacun a sa manière pourra porter sur ces allegations —— Si nous avions les gazettes américaines postérieures à ces pieces certainement nous y trouverions d'excellentes réponses, soit de M. W. H. Drayton soit de quelque autre bonne main;

mais Dieu sait quand il en viendra

et en attendant la cause américaine

pourra être jugée ici sur de pareilles

assertions, que deux mots bien appliqués

pourroient détruire: vous me rendez la

justice de ne pas douter de mon zèle; mais

je suis de trop bonne foi pour me croire

capable de traiter convenablement

une affaire de cette importance, à la

quelle je craindrois de porter préjudice

par de trop foibles raisons —— Permet=

tez moi de vous demander quelques

notes et observations sur les assertions

(N° 255)

Genet to A. Lee
24th Oct. 1778

tagne de Mr. Johnstone que de ses Collègues
elles toucheront bien plus sûrement au
but que tout ce que je pourrois dire — Je
les emploierai, suivant mon usage, sans
nommer de quelle part elles me viennent
et elles paroitront avoir été tirées
des papiers anglois — c'est le zèle
dont je suis animé pour l'honneur de
l'alliance et pour les succès qui m'inspire
la confiance de vous faire cette prière

Je suis avec respect

Monsieur

Votre très humble et
très obéissant serviteur.
Genet

a Versailles ce 24. oct
1778

J'ai reçû Monsieur, avec bien de la sensibilité les nouvelles qui vous sont venües par l'Espagne. c'est une fatalité bien grande que le malheureux coup de vent qui a separé les escadres au moment où M. le Cte d'Estaing avoit joint celle des anglois. il avoit alors une superiorité qu'il doit avoir perdue si les amiraux Byron et Parker ont joint le Lord Howe. nous sommes bien impatiens d'avoir des nouvelles directes de notre vice amiral, nous nous flattons que les vents du large qui soufflent ameneront quelqu'expedition de sa part. je vous prie en attendant Monsieur, de me communiquer les nouvelles que vous pourrez recevoir par d'autres voyes.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec une parfaite consideration, Monsieur, Votre tres humble et tres obeissant serviteur.

De Vergennes

Versailles le 24. 8bre 1778

M. Lee

a Chaillot

I read, Sir, with much concern the News you received by the way of Spain. The storm which seperated the fleets at the moment that Count D'Estaing had reached that of the English, was a most unlucky accident. He had then a superiority which he must lose, if Byron & Parker have joind Ld Howe. We are very anxious to hear from our Vice Admiral & Ist wind we hope that the present favorable winds will bring some Advices from him. In the meantime I entreat you, Sir, to communicate to me any account you may receive thro other channels.

I have the honor to be &c &c

Versailles 28th Oct. 1778 De Vergennes

Adresse de la Bourse d'Amsterdam, présentée au S. P. Stadhouder par une Députation du Corps des Marchands, le 24 Oct. 1778. trad. du Hollandois.

Sérénissime Prince,

Quoiqu'il n'y ait pas longtemps que V. A. S. a accordé une Audience favorable aux Comissaires du Corps des Marchds d'Amsterdam, & qu'il Vous a plu de les assurer de Votre puissant appui; cependant les Marchds combinés des principales Villes comerçantes de la hollande se voient pressés de nouvelles raisons, pour avoir encore recours à V. A. S., & pour offrir leurs intérêts à sa gracieuse attention.

Allarmés ci-devant de la conduite des Vaisseaux de Roi & Armateurs Anglois, qui prennent & emenent nos Vaisseaux sous le Pavillon libre de ~~l'Etat~~ cet Etat, ils sont aujourd'hui navrés de celle du Ministere Anglois même, dans la réponse qu'il a faite aux justes représentations à ce sujet du Comte de Welderen, Envoyé Extraordre de LL. hh. pp.

C'est pourquoi ils n'hésitent pas d'implorer de nouveau le soutien de V. A. S., & de réclamer, de la maniere la plus énergique, sa protection réelle & efficace.

Ils prennent la liberté d'observer sur la réponse de la Cour d'Angleterre, qu'elle est en contradiction manifeste avec le Droit & la Liberté de Comerce, qui leur sont assurés en vertu des Traités conclus jadis par LL. hh. pp. avec cette Cour; & que c'est à la foi & au serment des Traités les plus solemnels & les plus sacrés, que les Anglois osent opposer un prétendu Droit de Convenance, qui, étant tout-à-fait arbitraire, rend inutile tout Traité quelconque, & fait dépendre notre salut du Caprice de notre voisin.

Est-il étrange, après cela, que ceux, qui souffrent de cette criante iniquité, s'en plaignent?

Peut-on, sans frémir, envisager les calamités auxquelles les conséquences de ce prétendu Droit, absurde & insoutenable, exposeroit tout notre Comerce?

L'on ne sauroit pourtant nier, que tout ce Comerce, & la sureté de nos possessions, posent sur la bonne foi des Traités: ceux-ci ne sauroient être sujets à une violation arbitraire, sans jeter toutes nos actions dans une terrible & funeste incertitude.

Ce n'est pas tout: ces Traités, connus de toute la Terre, sont les fondemens qui déterminent d'autres nations, & le monde entier, à confier leurs effets à la sureté de notre pavillon. Si ces fondemens ne sont pas solides, si nous perdons cette confiance, c'en est fait, dans peu, de toute notre navigation.

Une autre raison, qui nous fait d'autant plus craindre ces funestes suites, c'est que nous apprenons que le Ministere Anglois se montre plus doux envers d'autres Nations, avec lesquelles les Anglois n'ont pas des Traités come avec nous, mais qui, se fondant sur le Droit seul de la Nature & des Gens, se sont exprimés vigoureusement contre eux.

Et nous, Bataves, nous n'oserions pas parler, avec autant de force au moins, pour notre Droit plus solennel encore? A Dieu ne plaise!

N'oserions-nous pas nous flatter, que des représentations sérieuses & réitérées de la part de notre République, auroient pour nous cet effet heureux, d'obliger les Anglois à restituer, avec dépens & domages, & sans délais frivoles, les Vaisseaux qu'ils nous ont saisis, & qu'ils nous retiennent, avec leurs charges, & à se désister de toute exception injuste & arbitraire; afin qu'ainsi la Liberté du Pavillon de cet Etat soit & reste reconnue, en observant scrupuleusement les Traités?

Nous sollicitons, pour cet effet, le gracieux Appui & le puissant concours de V. A. S., dans les mesures que notre humble confiance en LL. hh. pp. nous fait espérer qu'Elles prendront sur nos plaintes & requête, pour réparer & détourner tout domage du Comerce.

Nous croyons pouvoir en même temps supplier instament, pour que les Remedes efficaces que nous demandons, soient appliqués le plus promptement possible: car nous n'avons que trop de preuves, que les Anglois ne cherchent qu'à nous amuser par des paroles, & que les ordres qu'ils ont donnés, de relâcher quelques-uns de nos Vaisseaux, ne s'exécutent qu'avec toute la lenteur possible.

En attendant, nous nous adressons aussi à V. A. S., come à l'Amiral-Général de ces Provinces-Unies, au Protecteur de la Liberté de leur Navigation. La moindre Chaloupe, Monseigneur, prise sans raison sous le Pavillon de l'Etat, n'échapperoit pas (nous en somes sûrs) à votre attention; la haute Charge de V. A. S. seroit honnie elle-même, par une telle insulte: Et voilà des trésors confiés à la sûreté de ce Pavillon, les voilà arrachés des mains des Sujets de l'Etat; voilà une multitude de nos Vaisseaux, détenus dans les divers Ports de l'Angleterre!

Quand ils seroient tous relâchés (& nous osons compter qu'ils le seront réellement sur les sérieuses représentations de cet Etat), la prudence ne

nous en paroît pas moins exiger, que l'on veille, pour prévenir de pareilles insultes à l'avenir. Ce n'est pas la premiere fois que nous nous trouvons dans le cas: nous sentons encore la profonde impression que nous a laissée la perte de tant de Millions, que notre Comerce a essuyée en 1758; perte que la continuation de la Guerre rendit incomparablement plus grande qu'on n'a pu alors la déterminer & indiquer. Il est donc bien naturel que nous souhaittions d'être mis, une fois pour toutes, à l'abri de telles injustices.

Il est besoin pour cela des Vaisseaux de guerre résolus; il est besoin de Flottes. Il est besoin que ces Vaisseaux de guerre, dont une partie est déjà completement équipée & à la disposition de V. A. S. notre Amiral en chef, soient munis des ordres nécessaires, précis & rigoureux, pour pouvoir, d'ici en peu de jours, nous sauver & protéger là où notre détresse est la plus grande.

Nous vous supplions donc, Monseigneur, que les Convois accordés ne soient pas retardés plus longtemps! Celà, ainsi que l'augmentation & le redoublement des Equipages, dépend, dans cette conjoncture, de V. A. S. seule.

Celà étant, & ayant la justice & l'équité de notre côté, n'obtiendrions-nous donc point satisfaction de l'injustice qu'on nous a faite? Laisseroit-on continuer les ravisseurs, de maltraiter & emmener impunément nos vaisseaux?

Non, magnanime Prince! Vous nous pardonnerez d'attendre, d'exiger de vos mains, le Maintien de nos Droits & privileges.

Par-là Vous préserverez de la pauvreté, & de la misere, des milliers, des dixaines de milliers de Citoyens, qui ne subsistent que du Comerce ou de ses effets, & qui seroient ruinés avec lui.

En vérité, nous ne saurions, sans émotion, penser aux funestes suites qu'entraîneroit la privation de notre Navigation libre; à l'immensité de la perte subite que causeroit à l'Etat l'inaction d'une grande partie de nos Navires; à l'éclipse de tant de Millions, que ces Navires rapportent à l'Etat en général, & au Citoyen en particulier.

Ah, Seigneur, que votre grande Ame soit touchée du péril où est la liberté de notre Navigation. Vous la reconnoissez, aussi bien que nous, pour le Nerf de cet Etat, & pour sa plus grande richesse.

C'est, sans contredit, notre intérêt présent qui nous fait prendre la liberté de nous adresser à V. A. S. Mais, nous osons le dire, il ne s'agit pas moins des Intérêts de la Postérité; & notre présente démarche en est à nos yeux un devoir d'autant plus sacré. Car si nous nous taisions, lorsque la nécessité, le temps & l'occasion nous comandent de parler, cette postérité chargeroit avec justice notre Mémoire de reproches d'autant plus aggravants, qu'ils pourroient, peut-être trop tard & ~~sans remède~~ inutilement, fatiguer les oreilles des illustres rejetons de V. A. S.

C'est ici le moment où nous pourons être mis à l'abri des tyrannies présentes & futures des Anglois, & où la prospérité de notre Comerce peut être consolidée.

Puissions-nous en témoigner notre Gratitude à V. A. S.! Puissent nos Descendants bénir & perpétuer la Mémoire de Guillaume V, notre Stadhouder héréditaire, pour avoir glorieusement rétabli leur liberté sur mer! Ainsi bénisse Dieu tout bon V. A. S., sa Royale Epouse, & ses illustres rejetons! Ainsi fleurisse, avec la Maison d'Orange, la Liberté Batave & la chere Patrie, par une Navigation libre & par un Comerce sans entraves.

La Députation, qui a présenté cette adresse pour appuyer celle présentée à LL. HH. PP. avoit à sa tête, pour Orateur, un Négociant d'Amsterdam, qui s'est parfaitement acquitté de sa fonction, tant devant le Prince, que chez Mr. le Greffier de LL. HH. PP. & chez Mr. le Grand-Pensionaire.

Mr de Sarsfield fut hier tres faché de ne reconnoître

Monsieur Lee qu'apres que les deux voitures se furent

depassées. Il n'avoit pas pu passer chez lui avant

d'aller chez Mr franklin parce qu'il avoit un paquet

a lui remettre, (a mr franklin) Il espere que l'hiver lui

procurera les occasions de voir Monsieur Lee. Il les

recherchera toujours avec soin

Rue pot de fer le Samedi 24 8bre 1778

Sir/ Passy Nov.r 1. 1778

We have receiv'd the enclosed from Med.e Gerard Spouse of M. Gerard, Ambassador of this Court to the United States. She is a Lady that we much respect; & if by any means you can procure her the satisfaction She requests you will exceedingly oblige

Sir Y.r most &c

B. F. & A. L.

P.S. Any expence you may be at shall be thankfully repaid.

A M. Schweighauser.

Messieurs Versailles ce 26 Oct.r 1778

J'avois envoyé a mon Mari, mon portrait et celui de ma fille, sur une Boete que M. Williams de Nantes a fait porter par un vaisseau qui a été pris conduit a Guernsay. M. de Chaumont m'a dit Messieurs que vous auriez la bonté pour moi & mon Mari d'employer votre Correspondant a Nantes, qui a son gendre fils du Maire de Guernezay pour [illegible] cette Boete, qui ne peut interesser le preneur que [illegible] de quelques cercles d'or qui sont de peu de [illegible] sequence. Je vous demande pardon Messieurs, de [illegible] demander votre entremise dans un objet si peu consequent mais l'amitiée que vous avez pour mon Mari me repond de l'interet que vous mettrez a me procurer cette satisfaction. Je suis Messieurs

Votre tres humble & tres obeissante Servitrice

Deverly Gerard

A Messieurs M. Franklin Lee & Adams Deputés des Etats Unis

(No 256) Oct 27–78

Monsieur!

Je recois par le courrier d'aujourdhui l'honneur de votre chere Lettre du 22 courant par laqu'elle je vois avec plaisir que vous vous ete arangé avec Monsieur Livingston pour le transport de l'artillerie des Etats de la Verginie – demain suivant vos ordres je lui en ecirai a Rochefort pour le prier de se rendre ici avec son Vaisseau le plutot qu'il le pourra; de mon coté Monsieur soyez persuadé que je ne negligerai rien

pour

ſ:ſ pour accellerer son depart — heureusement

M Gruel avoit remis jusqu'a Jeudi pour me

donner sa reponce definitive ce qui est cause

que je n'ai pas fini avec lui, come ses conditions

pourroient vous etre de quelqu'utilité dans la

circonstance actuelle, je les joint a la presente

elles vous paroitront sans doute onereuse mais

telles qu'elles sont, M Gruel est le seul de nos

Armateurs qui y a voulut penser & meme

parroit'il avoir de la peine a se decider. —

Vous aurez vu par ma derniere que les

24 Caisses de Strasbourg sont heureusement

arrivees ici, ils il en a vingt autre a Orleans

lesquelles jespere nous recevrons incessemment.

M Le Maire me dit que les autres articles

ne seront ici quen Decembre — etant tout

ce qui s'offre pour le moment je finis en vous priant de me croire avec la plus parfaite consideration

Monsieur

Votre tres humble & tres obeissant Serviteur
J. Dl. Schweighauser

Nantes 27 8.bre 1778.

(No 256) Schweighauser
27th Oct '78

Arthur Lee Esq.r Bilbao the 28th Octor 1778.

Honoured Sir

We crave your very Kind referance to what had the pleasure of saluting you last with on the 10th Instant since which haveing this very momment Kissed our hands Via Madrid your allway's Esteemed & agreable favour of the 6th current with a Postcript of 14th after duelly acknowledging ourselves, greatly obliged to your Kindness for the News you are pleased to communicatte us therein; have to Informe you that conformable to your Instructions have this very day given orders to our Sundry Castille Freinds to collectt wth all Imaginable Speed the Therty thousand Blanketts you are pleased to directt, & as this is the most proper Season of the year for the purpose doubt not that they will shortly be able to comply with the directions given them.—

We have now also the satisfaction of Informing your= [illegible] that [illegible]ticle order'd by the Donors, on the old plan is ready & packt up in our Whare House, wherefore our mutuall Freind Mr John. Emery haveing determined (In hopes of your giving us liverty to draw on Mr Lelgrand for the half freight) to freight us a large Brigg he has in the river, we shall by her Transmmitt every thing we have on that Account & Compleatt with this remmittance that order: assuring you that she shall be dispatch'd hence with the utmost Expedition: she shall Conductt besides the Compleament of Blanketts, Shoes, Stockings, Tent Cloath & Russia Duck a very fine Compleatt assorttment of Cabbles rigging &c for a Ship of 500 Tons, which doubt not will likewise be approved of by your goodself: all our Navy is supplyd from hence wth this Article & according to Mr Emery's oppinion the Cordage made here is preferable in quality even to that made In England, therefore should you (as we suppose) be in need of it & be Kind enough to give us your directions for its purchase by only Informing us the Tonnage of the Vessell, depend on

its being gott ready in a very short Time & of the very best Quality.

We have also to Informe you that according to the Eagerness shown by our lavourers for Worke, believe that should we have an order for 15 a 20,000 pair of Shoes ~~[illegible]~~ they might be gott at least half rial Cheaper a pair, which have thought proper to Advice you of, as likewise that agreable to every one's oppinion Two pair of the Shoes made here are preferable to three pair made in France. We have the honour to salutte you very Cordially & remmain

Honoured Sir

Your much oblig'd obt hble Servts

B. & Joseph Gardoqui & sons

Capt. Smith & Ives departted hence the 19th Instant under Convoy of the Bennington Privateer as farr as Cape Finis Terre a Governo

Fm Committee of Foreign Affairs

(No 25)

Sir, Philadelphia Octr 29. 1778

Supposing it might import you to see the inclosed, it was proposed to, and agreed by Congress that the papers should be sent you. If you think it expedient you will furnish Mr Izard with a copy of them. The News papers contain all the ~~news~~ intelligence of this place. We are Sir your most humble Servants

Richard Henry Lee

James Lovell

P.S. We add two Resolves to the Papers before alluded to. Mr Wm Lee & Mr Izard will greatly depend on you for American and other Intelligence.

Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

(No. 257)

Rd. H. Lee & James Lovell
to
A. Lee
(29 Octr. 1778)

Nantes October 29th. 1778

Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters dated the 5th & 22nd Inst., addressed to Mr Blake, & myself. We are happy to find that our sentiments relative to Mr Schweighauser gave you pleasure, and be assured, that it is no small addition to our satisfaction to be informed, that our opinion respecting his honor and integrity corresponds with yours. The Contrivers of the iniquitous means to blemish his character through the person of his Son in Law, I hope will fully experience the infamy, and disgrace that such infamous proceedings merit.

Mrs Blake joins with me in a grateful return of thanks for the news, and London paper that you have been pleased to send us. Being informed The Honble Commissioners, and the Court have some late intelligence from Philadelphia, we flatter ourselves, that you are possessed of acceptable information from Congress. The Vessel which Mr Blake, and myself shall embark

on board of, we have named La Belle Poule, she will be compleatly Equiped and ready to depart with the first Convoy, that may offer at the expiration of a fortnight, As there is no probability of procuring an ~~entire~~ American Crew, we shall be obliged to put her under french Colours, which proves a disagreeable circumstance, as it is difficult, if not impossible to get french Sailors, who are really trust worthy, as the King takes all the Registered Seamen, In this circumstance, we should be glad to get four or five of the English prisoners, who are desirous of entering into the American Service, As I apprehend, that a permission for said purpose must be obtained from The Honble Commissioners (being Seamen captured by the Boston Frigate) you will oblige the Owners and myself to procure the needful order The people are confined in the Castle of this City -

The Ladies are thankful for your kind remembrance, and join with Messrs Blakes and myself in respectful Compts —

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most Obedt Servt

John Lloyd

please to address me chez Mons.r J. D. Schweighauser's, as I get my letters by that means certain and regular

I beg leave to recommend the writer of the enclosed letter to your favour and protection, as I esteem him to be a Person well deserving trust & confidence and I believe him to be as capable a Merchant as any in this Kingdom —

The Hon.ble Arthur Lee N° 258 Nantes 31.st Oct.ber 1778

Sir

Having exerted our best endeavours to procure the articles agreed by our Contract; with pleasure we acquaint you that the greatest part of them have been inspected & approv'd by M. LeMaire. This Gentleman, has urged to make an additional number of 640 fusees & 620 Pistols for Dragoons as an indispensable article. In consequence, we have order'd them, but, as that is exclusive to our Treaty & we are to act only by your Authority we beg leave to know your Intentions on that account whether you approve their being deliver'd with the other Muskets &c.

We have the Honour to be with profound Respect

Sir

Your most obedient
& devoted humble servants
Penet DaCosta freres & C.

A L'honorable

L'honorable Monsieur Arthur Lee
à Passy proche Paris

Passy

1778

Da Costa Brot & Co
to
A. Lee
(No 258) 31 Oct: 1778

~~No 3444~~

Oct. 1778. — Arthur Lee contrived ~~contrived~~ to excite the suspicions, and gain the disfavor of the French Court very soon after he came to Paris as a commissioner. He is designated by Mr Gerard in a letter to Ct. Vergennes as "un homme tres incommode s'il n'est pas dangereux." He became disaffected to Dr Franklin very early, and wrote harsh things against him to Congress. When Deane went home the flame was kindled still higher, as Lee's brothers took a strong part against Deane, and consequently against Franklin. When the proposition came before Congress to appoint a plenipotentiary to France to take the place of the commissioners every effort was made by this party to supercede Franklin & procure the appointment of Lee. A member affirmed in debate, that he was sure Lee would be particularly agreeable to the French Court, and alluded in so pointed a manner to Mr Gerard as his authority, that some of the members went immediatly to Mr G. told him the circumstances, and asked him to state the facts.

He replied that Saml. Adams had come to him soon after his arrival in Philadelphia, and questioned him about Mr Lee, & asked him if there was any foundation

for the unfavorable reports respecting M. Lee. He replied that he believed these reports were generally credited in France, but that he was not aware that his political integrity had been impeached; that his faults were rather to be "attributed to his personal character and connexions, than to any want of attach-ment to the United States". When he was told, that his authority in this case would have great weight, and it was desirable for him to ex-press a decided opinion, he replied that it was not consistent with his station or his feelings to interfere with the personal concerns of persons before the American public, but if it was deemed important for him to be more ex-plicit he could venture add, that the king would at least learn with entire indifference the recal of Mr Lee. — Gerard.

Saml. Adams and the Lees always took particular pains to show attentions to Mr Gerard, and appeared desirous to con-vince him that they were in his interests, and attached to the alliance. He considered these testetimes as tokens of their policy, rather than their sincerity. — Gerard.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY MICROFILM / PUBLICATIONS

The following document, designs for the coat of arms of Virginia, is in Arthur Lee's autograph; the addresses on the second page are those of Parisian engravers.

(No 237)

Le Dessein d'un grand Seau pour un Etat.

Sur l'une coté de la cire l'impression doit etre, La Vertu — le genie de l'Etat habilier en Amazone, s'inclinant sur une pique, avec la main ~~droitte~~ gauche — et tenant une Epée nue dans la main droitte, avec la Tiranie sous ses pieds, dont tombera une Coronne de sa tette tenant une chaine cassé ~~dans~~ de sa main gauche et un fouete dans sa main droitte, —

Dans l'Exergue le Mot Virginia sur la tette de Vertu, et en bas les mots —

Sic Semper Tyrannis. —

Sur l'autre Coté de l'impression doit etre.

La Liberté tenant une pique de la main droitte avec un bonnet au bout de la pique, d'un Coté de la Liberté, est la Deesse Ceres avec sa Corne d'abondance dans sa main gauche et une branche d'olivier dans sa main droitte. De l'autre Coté de la Liberté, est l'Eternité avec un globe dans sa main gauche, et un oiseaux fenix dans sa maine droitte.

Dans l'exergue, les Mots.

Deus Nobis hæc Otia Fecit.

Leonard Graveur a la Monie ou au Galarie du Louvre

Lorthior rue de la Monie

Gammot vis avis sainte Chapelle Cour du Palais

Sauvage Orfevre Quai des Orfevres

My Lords,

Being persuaded of your Lordships tender feelings, flowing from those truly humane principles which have ever distinguished Britons from the more barbarous Nations I cannot but flatter myself with hope of your Lordships immediate interposition in behalf of the American prisoners, who are now actually perishing with hunger — My Lords the relation of Facts I now humbly beg leave to lay before your Lordships & what you may depend upon as real without any exaggeration, does not emerge from any attachment to the Prisoners considered as Americans, but purely from a principle of Humanity, nor can I quiet my conscience without letting your Lordships know how government is imposed on, & the prisoners treated. — What discretionary power is lodged in the Agent your Lordships are the most competent judges. — My charge against him is included in the following particulars which upon a strict enquiry will be found just —

Charge 1st — For reasons well known, Mr. Cowdry connives with the Butcher Mr. Hall of Plymo. serving in, Necks & Sticks of Beef instead of whole quarters, sometimes so tainted that the Maggotts drop out of it, being the refuse of the Market & bad in Quality. —

Charge 2d. He does not give the Prisoners Government allowance which he says his three pounds of Beef for four Men ꝑ day. — This allowance tho' very scanty, if well serv'd and the water in which it is boil'd was converted to to broth it might render their lives supportable, but their allowances when boil'd being repeatedly weigh'd amounts to no more than a pound & half to two pounds including bones Quere, what must the meat be, considering the first Charge

Charge 3d. The Meat tho' bad in quality is so much boil'd that all the fat & marrow might be easily selected for the Chandler, which affords a considerable perquisite —

Charge 4th. He Robs the prisoners of their Money & other things of value they brought into the Prison, and has denied them the priviledge of working and the publick of having access to buy of them or give any thing to them. — He has set up a charity Box to beg money of the public for the Prisoners, the greatest part of which is put into his own pockett. — But one dividend has been made to the prisoners of one penny ꝑ Man, which is notoriously known would have amounted to many shillings. —

Charge 6th. Many of the Prisoners have been put into the black hole on half the accustom'd allowance for attempting to escape, and that apartment being low the water lies upon the Floor, like a Hogstie. and

lie all night on an old door in that place —

Charge 7th He allows the prisoners in the Black hole but one hour in the day to take the fresh Air and the other prisoners are not allowd fresh air but a few hours in the heat of the Day. —

Charge 8th He denied the prisoners a sufficient quantity of water untill a worthy Captain of the guard insisted & said they should have as much water as they stood in need of. — thro there unheard of scenes of cruelty many of the ~~unheard of~~ prisoners were last week actually perishing with hunger, and in a delirium, whose ravings pierced the hearts of all, who passd & repassd. seen this horrible inquisition & infernal slaughter house of American Victims

Charge 9th He has removd a poor woman who sold small articles to the prisoners & is now turnd huxter himself, that he may exact upon them without mercy & open to himself a new vane of profit —

Charge 10th He has made a hogstie of a place within the walls of the Prison where coals were kept in the French war, and has now near twenty hogs feeding there on what the prisoners ought to have, otherwise would be of no profit to him, this must corrupt the air & may breed a fever among the Prisoners, which will be injurious to the Country. —

Charge 11th The small beer mix'd with water to mas a saving in that article for himself—

My Lords, this scene of horror alarms both town & country & the consequences may be alarming if not remedied— The Agent alledges his own innocen & says 'tis governments orders, which is in fact to say "Government has orderd me to murder all the prisone I doubt not but the principles of humanity & ties of nature will act so far on your Lordships as to exculpate Government from this charge &c—

Je crois, Monsieur, qu'il est fort egal que la compagnie de mad.e Gibbs soit plus ou moins nombreuse pour aller voir le pavillon de mr Le Duc de Conde. Si cependant cela ne lui fait rien, vous me ferez plaisir de me le faire savoir afin que je soie en Etat de repondre si, contre toute apparence, on me le demande.

Je la prierai de me permettre d'y amener avec un de mes amis qui a la meme

Curiosité.

Je ne sçay pourquoy j'ay ecrit en anglois la note que j'ay laissée chez vous ce matin. Je voulois avoir l'honneur de vous dire que je compte sur la permission a moins qu'il n'y ait des ouvriers a ce Pavillon. Il ne seroit pas possible de le voir parce qu'on ne verroit rien. Il seroit demeublé

Recevez Monsieur l'assurance des sentiments avec lesquels j'ay l'honneur d'être votre

tres humble et tres obeissant
Serviteur Fairfield

Le 1er 7bre 1778

P. 5 2 4

No. 2(5)

Dear Sir, Philadelphia Novr. 3. 1778

Your favor of October the 20th is put into my hands just when I am upon the point of setting out for Virginia, and therefore you may suppose me not so well circumstanced for giving you such an answer as I could wish. I esteem Sir, a cooperation with you in bringing to detection and punishment the plunderers of the public as being honorable to myself and useful to the Community. I believe upon the whole, that this Country has suffered more from its pretended friends, than from its open enemies.

Such has been the variety and importance of the business before Congress, and such the delay-making powers of some persons, who under pre-text of order, and with long speeches, kill time and ruin the public affairs that neither the affairs of Car—m—l or of D—e are yet finished.

~~Such are~~ the delay producing powers of some men, ~~and such~~ the destruction of time ~~who~~ under pretext of order, and ~~with~~ by long confident speeches, that I have never seen less business done in any Assembly than with us the last six or eight months.

Mr. Grand has written to Congress complaining most heavily both of D—e and F—n—There appears to me to have been great misconduct. ~~and~~ but I hope time & attention will discover and rectify all.

~~To effect this~~, It is my sincere opinion that with your powers, and your knowledge of facts, you can cause such instructions to be given your Delegates to Congress as will ~~[illegible]~~ more certainly and speedily effect this, than can by any other means be done.—

You wish to know how your Delegates have acted in this affair and whether they were for the Dr.s written narrative

Amidst the variety of questions that are propounded in Congress it is not easy to remember ~~how~~ whether particular Members vote, ~~but when~~ nor do I re~~member~~collect whether or not Mr. Lewis was present but as well as my memory serves me I think your State was against the written Narrative and for its being Viva Voce

That matter is a thing determined, and therefore I am at liberty to answer your question as well as I am able on that ~~point~~ point, but many other subjects of your enquiry I could answer to your satisfaction if I were not restrained by the rules of the house respecting unfinished affairs — That large sums of money have been expended in France is indubitable, that no adequate account is, ~~as such~~ yet obtained is certain; and to me the reasons for its not being so are ~~not~~ by no means satisfactory — He who undertakes public business without competency is ~~criminal~~ culpable, and a capable Man will at all times be able to shew satisfactorily how his business has been conducted even to the greatest minutiae. It is an insult on common sense to produce a Bankers charge of money issued, to account for the expenditure of Millions, during the transactions of near a year and an half. ~~[illegible]~~

We have a letter written by Cuningham (who commanded the Cutter fitted at Dunkirk, and which ~~have~~ cost the public more than 100,000 Livres) complaining heavily of finding for himself & his people ~~himself~~ them-selves the Commander of an private Armed Vessel, when he & they conceived themselves in the service of the U. S.

To
Sir
James Jay

R. H. Lee to Sir Jas Jay.
Novr 3d 1778

~~No 175.~~
(No 265)

No. 175

~~No 6~~

Letter Book No. 2 p. 95. Committee of foreign Correspondence

Gentlen. Paris Novr. 4th. 1778 (No. 257)

I wrote you April 14th May 9th 20th & 23d June 1st 9th & 17th July 6th 16th 20th 28th 29th Augt. 21st 31st Sept. 9th 30th Oct. 16th none of which have been acknowledged or answered. I usually send triplicates of my Letters & of all the Papers enclosed.

Whether the english Cabinet have yet determined upon relinquishing the war in America, I have not been able to learn. This is certain that they have ordered considerable quantities of clothing & provision to be made ready for that quarter, which looks as if they intend their fleet & Army shall winter with you. From their situation at present & that of Europe, it appears improbable that they can re-enforce or even recruit their Army to any effect. Their naval force too is so exactly balanced in Europe, by that of France alone that they can hardly venture to detach any more of their fleet against you. It seems therefore that you have before you the utmost force you are likely to contend with.

It serves the purposes of the Enemy to propagate reports of aid from Russia sometimes in ships, sometimes in Troops. As far as there is any certainty in Political events you may be assured they will have neither. The plan they adopt for Parliament which will meet the 26th will I imagine depend much on the representations of Lord Howe, & Govr. Johnstone who are both arrived in England.

Should their fleet & army winter in America it will be a capital object to intercept their provision fleets. For this purpose I shall obtain & transmit to you from time to time intelligence of their being collected at Corke from which you may judge what time they may be expected on the coast. The whale Fishery the Enemy have established on the coast of Brasil, & which they carry on by men from Nantucket is likely to become very valuable, & being totally unprotected might be destroyed at one blow. The instruments for abolishing the 11th & 12th Articles are exchanged

& that matter entirely settled. The inclosed Memoire to the Stad-houlder will explain to you the temper of Holland at this moment, It depends upon the folly of the Enemy to wind them up to our pitch.

I have the honor to be &c A.L.

L'Orient 15th May 1780. Examined with the Letter Book & found to be a true Copy. John G. Frazer

Joseph Brown Junr of So. Carolina

V. 4. p 211. A son Excellence M. le Comte de Vergennes

A Chaillot le 20 Janvr. 1779. La flotte de Corke en Ireland, dont j'avois l'honneur d'ecrire a votre Excellence le 8 de ce mois, n'est pas partie en totalité. 24 voiles sont actuellement partis sous l'escorte de deux Fregates pour l'Amerique & les Isles; un nombre pareil partira cet moi ci pour les Isles; et la grande flotte doit faire voile pour les deux Ameriques vers le fin du mois prochain. C'est ce que mes Lettres d'Angleterre m'annoncent; et je vois par une Lettre du Secretaire de l'Amiraute d'Angleterre qu'une escorte sera accordée le plutot possible apres le 20 fevr. Je tacherai d'etre averte a bonne heure de la force de cette Escorte et d'en prevenir votre Excellence.

J'ai l'honneur &c

L'Orient 15th May 1780 Examined with the Letter Book & found to be a true Copy. Joseph Brown Junr

The Honble the Committee for foreign Correspondence

Paris Janry 20th 1779 — The grand provision fleets from Corke for N. York & the Islands will sail towards the end of next month. Their Convoy will be two Frigates & a Ship of the line. It is however very uncertain whether the latter will be spared.

If a Squadron could be sent strong enough to intercept these fleets, it would be a mortal blow to their future operations. I have the honor &c.

L'Orient 15th May 1780 Examined with the Letter Book & found to be a true Copy.

John G. Frazer Joseph Brown Junr

N. 4. p. 142 Committee of foreign Correspondence.

Gentlemen / Paris Dec.r 5th 1778

I had the honor of writing you on April 14. May 9th, 20, & 23d. June 1, 9. 15. & 17. July 6th. 16th. 20th. 28th. 29th. Aug.t 21. 31. Sep.r 9th & 30th. Oct.r 5th & 19. Nov.r 4th. 18 & 20th, with various Inclosures, among which were triplicates of Mr Williams's Accounts, & Quadruplicates of the State of the Swiss Militia.

From Ld Suffolk's speech on the Address it appears that they have adopted a dernier plan for conducting the war against you, & as I am informed it is to burn & destroy every thing they approach. The example of Col. Butler is to be pursued on all the frontiers accessible to the Indians, to whom small Bodies of Regulars are to be joind. The fleet & army are to lay waste the Sea coast & its vicinities. Lord Suffolk is the mouth of the King of G. Britain & his Advisers Lords Bute & Mansfield & Wedderburne. What he says may therefore be depended on as their resolution.

From the enclosd piece (copies of which have been sent you from Holland) you will be able to judge of the nature & situation of the dispute there. The friends to themselves & to us are for augmenting their marine; the purchasd Advocates of England & the dependents of the Stadhoulder are for increasing their Army.

To make them & other neutral Nations feel the necessity of supporting the privileges of their Pavillions against the English, this Court has declard its determination to make prise of all goods belonging to the Enemy found in neutral Ships, as long as the same is permitted to be done by the british Cruisers, with regard to the effects of France in the same situation. This is such a blow to their interests, as it is imagind must rouse the Dutch to vigorous exertions against G. Britain in support of their privileges as common Carri-

the Court of Spain have published their intention of admitting the sale of prizes made by the French & the entrance of all American vessels upon the foot of other Neutral Nations.

Copy from Letter Book (No 259) (No 153.) (Nov 4 1778)

The Empress of Russia has determined to take part with the King of Prussia in the German war, which the House of Austria seems ~~determined~~ resolved to support against their United force. As Hanover & the other German Princes are pledged to assist the King of Prussia, our Enemy can hardly expect any aid from thence. Tho' it is therefore impossible to conceive how they can maintain the war in their very exhausted state, without one effectual Ally, yet it is certain that they mean to try another campaign. They are seeking revenge, & will find ruin.

I send you some Charts of the Continent of America & the Islands lately published & reckon'd extremely accurate; from which Congress may perhaps think proper to have others engraved for the use of the Navy. They consist of three Lg. fol. & a quarto Vol. of directions. We are in daily expectation of the final pleasure of Congress on the several important matters relating to our Missions.

L'Orient. 15th May 1780. Examined with the Letter Book, & found to be a true Copy —

John G. Frazer
Joseph Brown Jun
of S. Carolina.

No 153
Entd

Je viens, Monsieur, de recevoir lordre de mr Le Prince de condé pour faire voir son Pavillon a mad. Gibbs et sa compagnie ayez la bonté de prendre Jour avec elle et de me le faire savoir. Comme Je crois que le plutot vaut le mieux, Jay lhonneur de vous proposer samedi et je vous prie de men instruire le plutot qu'il vous sera possible de ce qui luy convient cest le seul Jour que Jaie libre dicy a la fin de la semaine prochaine

Jay Lhonneur d'etre avec un tres sincere attachement Monsieur Votre tres humble et tres obeissant serviteur

Le mercredi 4

Harsfield

Paris 7 9bre 1778

Vous m'avés promis Monsieur, de faire finir l'affaire de M. Berioll dont je vous ai remis toutes les pieces avec le compte qui Etablit sa créance sur le congrès de 8500.# 8. 6. Cependt. je n'ai aucunes nouvelles de vous à ce sujet, quoique l'objet me paroisse en lui-même bien simple puisque la question se réduit à savoir si cette somme est düe ou non aud. S. Berioll. J'ay encore reçu de lui le dern.r courier une lettre où il se plaint amerement de ce retard et paroit disposé a prendre une autre voye, si celle ci ne lui procure pas son payement. Je crois Mess. les Deputés du Congrès trop eclairés et trop justes pour ne pas terminer promptement une affaire de cette espece. sur quoi j'attendrai votre reponse. J'ai l'honneur d'être avec un veritable attachement Monsieur votre très humble et tres obeissant serviteur

Cottin fils

A Monsieur
Monsieur Lée
Deputé du congrés des
Etats unis de l'amerique
a Chaillot

Miss Lee

The testimony of Arthur Kirk late Masters Mate of the Lexington belonging to the United States of America, & lately escaped from the Old Mill Prison in England, relative to his treatment while Prisoner is as follows Viz. —

That on the 19th Sepr. 1777 he was taken in the Lexington by the Alert Cutter belonging to the King of England, and that during the time he was on board the said Cutter, he was used civilly by Mr. John Bazely commander of the said Cutter having not been plundered of his Cloaths or other necessaries, that the circumstances relating his confinement and treatment while in the old Mill Prison aforesaid under a commitment for High treason & Piracy, is the same as described in the Testimony of Capt George Ralls, who has been particular in stating

not only the treatment of himself but of those of his companions who have experienced more rigour — And many of the facts which he mentions at least such as ~~might~~ have happen'd since his committment I am thoroughly convinc'd of & aver the ~~f~~ veracity thereof —

Witness my hand at Paris

this 7th Nov.r 1778 — Arthur Kirk

about 7 Nov 78?

Honble Sir

I was disappointed in setting off on Friday night for Orleans, having thought proper to wait till this Evening for the Diligence—

If you may think proper to make use of the inclosed information, shall be think myself happy in having sent it, & hope 'twill tend to be serviceable to the unfortunate prisoners in Britain — I am with great respect, Honble Sir,

Yr most obedt Servt,
George Ralls

Hotel de Vauban
Sunday P.M.

Philadelphia 8th Novr 1778 (120

My Dear Sir

On my arrival here the 4th inst I had the pleasure of receiving your favor of ye 31 Octo at the hand of our Mutual Friend Mr Adams I Esteem myself highly Obliged by this token of Your remembrance, but should have been much Happier to have found you here May I hope my loss will in some measure be made up by frequently hearing from you which I flatter myself Your Retirement will afford you opportunities of Gratifying me in

You may be assured my attention will be much engaged in Marine Matters, & it will afford me perticular satisfaction to cooperate with you in that Business when you return here, which it is my sincere wish Your business may speedily admit of — —

I left Mr Langdon very well the 20th Octo he very perticularly desired his respects to you

Please to make my most respectfull Compliments to Your Good Lady, who I hope will so far retract her promise as to give me an opportunity (when peace is happily Established) to introduce her to such persons in Portsmouth as will be very happy in having an opportunity of making a visit to that Country agreeable to her — — I

I have taken up my Quarters at Liberty Hall where you know is a set, well agreed in Political sentiments, & I think I may say with great certainty that they are as well agreed in sentim[ents] of Esteem & Respect for you. — I anticipate the pleasures of some long winter Evenings wh[en] with a social pipe and friendly Glass we shall call to mind our worthy Friend & Heartily join in wishing he may soon add to our litt[le] Circle. — I have nothing new at pres[ent] to give you, whenever any thing happens tha[t] I think will give you pleasure be assured it will be a double pleasure to me to communicate it.

I am dear Sir with the utmo[st] Sincerity Most Respectfully You[rs]

Wm Whipple

123

William Whipple
letter 9 Novem. 1778
Letters from
Th Jefferson
Charles Lee
Henry Lee. R.B. Lee
Wm Grayson
Thos Paine &c

Hon. Gen. Whipple

Otter

Hon'ble
Richard Henry Lee Esq
at Chantilly
to the Care of the Post Master
at Leeds Town - Westmoreland County
Virginia

Free
Wm Whipple

294

Dear Sir, Chaillot. Nov.r 12th. 1778

Having a particular loan to obtain for the United States, which I wish to effect with as much secrecy as possible, that it may have no bad influence on that which we are negociating in conjunction; I must beg the favor of you to inform me whether it is practicable with the Chamber of Amsterdam. The Sum is one million sterling.

If you consult on this subject our friend the Bourgomaitre M. Vanberckle his opinion will be sufficient, & I entreat that it may not go farther. If it should be thought practicable either by me alone, as Commissioner for Spain, or conjointly with my brother Commissioners here I should wish to know on what conditions.

Could he be sounded whether the Chamber would agree to furnish us a million per Annum, at interest, to support us in carrying on the war, provided we stipulate to enter into the commercial treaty they wish to secure, when the war is concluded. By this supply we should be enabled to bring G. Britain speedily & surely to acknowlege our independency & the City of Amsterdam which is so much interested in having a participation of our Commerce, would secure what is her wish & her interest. no thinking man can help observing how much the Dutch hazard being excluded, if they leave things open; since it is so much the interest of England to exclude them, that no means to effect it will be left untried.

You cannot

imagine how much the cause depends upon obtaining this money, but that should not be trusted even to M. Vanberckle. Their own interests & wants not ours must be the means of persuading them to it. The City of London furnished a Loan to King William for our Revolution, & it is an example well worthy the imitation of Amsterdam.

I communicate to you, this business which I consider as of the last importance, because I have the most entire reliance on your zeal & activity in promoting the essential interests of our cause.

I would have written to you by the old cypher, which I yet have, but that I am uncertain whether you have preserved it.

Please to enclose your answer & address the outward cover a Monsieur Ford

chez M. Lee, a Chaillot près Paris. It will run less risque of being open'd.

I have the honor to be
with the greatest esteem
Dear Sir,
Yr. most obedt. humbl. Servt.
Arthur Lee

Chaillot 12th Nov. 1778
Mr. A. Lee

JJ.XX

Dear Sir / Chaillot prés Paris

Nov.r 12th 1778

Having a particular Loan to obtain for the United States, which I wish to effect with as much secrecy as possible that it may have no bad effect on that which we are negociating in conjunction; I must beg the favor of you to inform me whether it is practicable with the ~~Corporation of~~ Chamber of Amsterdam. The Sum is one Million Sterling. If you consult on this subject our friend the ~~Bourgo~~ Burgomaitre M. Vanberckle, his opinion ~~upon the matter~~ will be sufficient, & I entreat that it may not go farther. If it should be thought practicable either by me alone as Commissioner for Spain, or conjointly with my brother Commissioners here, I should be glad to know on what conditions. Could

he be sounded whether the City would agree to furnish us a Million per Annum at interest, to support us in carrying on the war, provided we stipulate to enter into the commercial treaty they wish to secure when the war is concluded. By this supply we should be enabled to bring G. Britain spee-dily & surely to acknowledge our independency, & the City which is so much interested in the participation of our Commerce would secure what is her wish & her interest ~~without the hazard of involving~~ the ~~United~~ ~~Provinces~~ in a ~~war by concluding the~~ ~~treaty now~~. No thinking man can help observing how much the Dutch hazard being excluded, if they leave things open, since it is so much the interest of England to exclude them that no means will be left untried to effect it.

You cannot imagine how much the cause depends upon the obtaining this money, but this should not be trusted even to Mr Vanberckle. Their own interests & wants not ours must be the means of persuading them to it. The City of London furnished a loan to King William, for ~~that~~ one revolution, & it is an example well worthy the imitation of Amsterdam.

I communicate to you this business which I consider of the ~~most essential~~ last importance consequence because I have the most entire reliance on your zeal & activity in promoting the Spartial interests of our cause.

I would have written to you by the old Cypher which I yet have, but that I am uncertain whether you have preserved it.

Please to enclose yr answer & address the cover a Monsieur Ford chez M. Lee Chaillot près Paris. It will run less risque of being opened.

I have the honor &c

M. Dumas
Amsterdam

Je crains Monsieur que M. de Gibbes ne manque enfin le pavillon de m. le prince de condé. ce qui en passé est sans remede. mais je honorai lui a y aller le plustot qu'il lui sera possible.

J'en suis fort faché car cela me privera du plaisir de m'y trouver avec vous. Je pars demain pour la campagne et quoy que je ne doive y etre que huit ou dix jours, je craindrois de vous faire manquer le temps de la séance chez le prince de condé qu'on m'a dit qui doit revenir a la fin du mois.

Je voulois aller ce matin vous porter le

Billet mais j'ay été obligé d'aller d'abord chez mr franklin ~~pour~~ a qui on m'avoit chargé de parler d'une affaire. J'ay été retardé et Je n'ay que le temps de vous écrire

Je laisse le billet a mr Le comte de Beyasson ~~que~~ ~~J'ay~~ ~~prie~~ vous ai prié d'engager mad.^lle Gibbes a trouver bon qui fut de la partie Quand vous aurez pris Jour avec elle ayez la bonté de l'avertir Un Jour, ou s'il se peut, deux Jours auparavant, et de prendre heure et rendez vous avec lui.

Il demeure a Passy chez mad.^e de la

Bassais dans la Rue basse. C'est a
coté de la porte d'entrée de la maison de
Mr Rey de Chaumont.

Tachez Je vous prie d'avertir Mr
De Begasson deux Jours auparavant
Mais au moins 24 heures bien pleines

Adieu Monsieur Vous connoissez
Mon sincere et inviolable attachement

Dimanche 15 9bre

Sans vous donner la peine de venir chercher
Mr De Begasson Je vous prie de lui faire savoir
L'heure du Rendezvous par un billet parce

quil craint quevous neprenies une pein
inutile parcequil va quelque fois a Pari

Vous recevez Monsieur un billet de moy qui
vous apprendra que j'ay été a Passy ce matin
sans pouvoir avoir l'honneur de vous voir. Le
tems m'a manqué. Vous trouverez [illegible]
[illegible] ce qui j'ay laissé la carte
pour voir le cabinet de M. le p^ce de Condé. Je
n'ay pas voulu la confier a ces domestiques
parce que si elle se perdoit il n'y auroit
aucun remede. Il faut qu'elle soit remise par le
prince lui meme.

J'ay oublié de vous dire dans ce billet qu'il
étoit d'usage de donner aux gens qui vous
montreront ce cabinet. Je crois que douze francs
suffisent.

J'ay encore oublié de vous parler de l'heure

Je pense qu'il faut s'arranger pour onze heures afin d'y être bien surement avant midy. Vous rappellez vous toutes les questions que vous me faisiez a Londres sur les Etats de Bretagne? Vous ne vous en souciez peut être plus. Mr de Begasson seroit fort en etat de vous satisfaire. Il a la plus grande consideration dans la province et est tout a fait de cause, je crois que vous serez bien aise d'avoir fait connoissance avec lui. Adieu Monsieur vous connoissez mon sincere et inviolable attachement

Dimanche 15 7bre

V. 5. p. 30. Committee of Correspondence

Gentlemen Nov. 20th 1778

I have intelligence that a considerable fleet of provision Ships, will sail from Corke for N. York the end of this or the beginning of next month. They have one frigate for their Convoy assisted by two or three armd Ships. This news I fear will not reach you in time to have them intercepted on the coast which would be a severe blow to the Enemy.

Nothing new; but the meeting of Parlaiment, which will be on the 26th. must open something.

I have the honor &c

A L'Orient 12 May 1780 A true Copy Ex. W. Blodget of Boston

A. Windship of Boston

(37)

V. 5. p. 35. A son Excellence le Comte Florida blanca

I have the honor of enclosing to your Excellency a true copy of a proclamation & manifesto lately issued in America by the british Commissioners. The plan of desolation & cruelty announced in it has been approvd in Parlaiment by one of his britannic Majesty's principal Secretaries of State the Earl of Suffolk, & a majority in both Houses of Parlaiment have given their sanction to the manifesto, itself by refusing to disclaim.

upon these grounds it may be justly considerd as the act of the Nation.

The intentions of G. Britain derogatory at once of all the sacred rights of humanity, of the honor of God, & of the established Laws of civilizd Nations are thus declard in the Manifesto — "The policy as well as the benevolence of G. Britain, have thus far checkd the extremes of war, when they tended to distress a People still considerd as our fellow-subjects, & to desolate a Country shortly to become again a source of mutual advantage. But when that Country professes the unnatural design not only of estranging herself from us, but of mortgaging herself & her resources to our Enemies, the whole contest is changd, & the question is how far G. Britain may by every means in her power destroy or render useless a connection contrived for her ruin & for the aggrandizement of France. Under such circumstances the laws of self preservation must direct the conduct of G. Britain, & if the British Colonies are to become an accession to France will direct her to render that acquisition of as little avail as possible to her Enemy."

The pretext here alledgd for carrying the war to all its extremities, which the laws of humanity & of Nations forbid, & of desolating merely for the purpose of desolation is — that the Country is to be monopolizd by France. That this is merely a pretext is manifest from the treaty itself, on which they ground in which it is declard that the United States are

at

- exciting the Savages by presents & bribes to massacre the defenceless frontier families, without distinction of age or sex, are extremities of cruelty already practised & which they cannot exceed. But the recovery of what they called their rights & the reduction of those who had renounced as they alledged a just supremacy, was then avowedly the object of the war. These cruelties were, it was pretended, incidental severities, & necessary to the attainment of a just object. But now destruction alone is the object. It is not profit to themselves but injury to others, which they are pursuing. Desolation for the pleasure of ~~desolating~~ destroying is their only purpose. They will sacrifice to disappointed vengeance what their injustice lost & their power cannot regain.

There cannot be a greater violation of those Laws which bind civilized Nations together, which are the general property, & which distinguish their wars from those of Savages & Barbarians, than this Manifesto. All civilized nations are called upon as well by their own interests as by those of humanity to vindicate its violated Laws. Your Excellency will therefore permit me to hope, that so daring & dangerous a procedure will call forth a declaration from the King of Spain, whose pre-eminent character among Princes, for piety, wisdom & honor, will render him a fit avenger of the common cause of Mankind. It is not America only that is wronged by this savage Pro-'amation, but the feelings of humanity, the dic-'s of Religion, the Laws of God, of Nature, & of Nations.

Your Excellency will also give me

at liberty to make the same treaty with all Nations. Your Excellency knows too how unjust this imputation is in our most secret transactions. By one of those strange absurdities into which men blinded by bad passions are often betrayed, they denounce this desolation against the People at large, who they in the same breath assert have not ratified the treaty. Thus if we are to credit their own assertions, the ground of their rage is pretended, & the objects of it innocent.

It is therefore most clear, that the threatened cruelties are not out of policy, but out of revenge. And as nothing is more odious than this spirit, nothing more dangerous to all that is deemed dear & sacred among men, than an open avowal of such a principle, & an exercise of the barbarities which it suggests, such a conduct ought to arm all Nations against a People, whose proceedings thus proclaim them to be hostis humani generis.

It is not that they can add to the cruelties they have already exercised. Desolation & Massacre have marked their steps wherever they could approach. The sending those Captives, whom they pretend now to have considered as their fellow-subjects, into perpetual slavery in Africa & India — the crowding other Captives into Dungeons where thousands perished by disease & famine — the compelling others by chains & stripes to fight against their Country their Relations — the burning defenceless town

leave to request that this representation may be laid before his Majesty & enforced with such arguments as your Excellency's greater knowlege, & the favor you have had the goodness to manifest for our just cause may suggest.

Dec.r 27th. 1778.

I have the honor to be &c

L'Orient 12 May 1780 A true Copy Exd. W Blodget of Boston

A Windship

A son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Espagne

a Chaillot le 18e Decemb. 1778

M. Lee a l'honneur de presenter ses respects, a son Excellence M. le Comte d'Aranda, et de le prier de vouloir bien faire expedier au plutot le Pacquet ci-joint, a son Excellence le Comte Florida blanca.

L'Orient 12 May 1780 A true Copy Exd. W Blodget of Boston

A Windship of Boston

V. 5. p. 39. To his Excellency Count Florida Blanca

Paris Dec.r 27th. 1778.

I have the honor of enclosing to your Excellency a Manifesto from Congress in answer to th of his britannic Majesty's Commissioners.

Yo

Excellency has also enclosed, a copy of a former Resolution of Congress on this subject, from which it will appear how earnestly they have shunned this shocking extremity. As long as it was possible to impute the Barbarities committed to the un-authorized intemperance & cruelty of Individuals; Congress exhorted the suffering People to lenity & forbearance. But when these become acts of authority avowed & order[ed] Congress must not only stand justified before God [&] Man, but would have been culpable in the e[yes] of both had they longer withheld the order for retali-ation. Permit me to hope, that your Excellenc[y] will represent these things to his Majesty & that they will produce an immediate declaration which is most likely to arrest the sanguinary pr-ogress of our Enemy [illegible] the devastation of our Country for the defence of their own.

I have the honor &c

M. Lee a l'honneur de presenter ses respects a son Excellence M. le Comte d'Aranda, et de le prier de faire passer la lettre ci-jointe a sa destination
Decr. 27th. 1778.

L'Orient 12 May 1780 A true Copy [illegible] of Boston

A Windship of Boston

(No. 260) Brest Novr. 21st. 1778.

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 16th. Current. It is my duty, and it will always afford me particular pleasure to give every satisfactory information in my power, respecting any circumstance that regards the Public interest and my conduct as an American Officer. — In my letter of the 3d. of June to the Commissioners, I was very particular in accounting for the Prizes which I had taken since I left America, and in what manner they had been disposed of. — On my way from America for Nantes I took two Brig-antines, both laden with Fruit, from Malaga for London; — that after which you enquire, arrived at Nant[es] and being sold very cheap by Messrs. Morris & Williams, the Captors moiety was paid to them in Feb.y agreeable to your letter. — This is all that came within my knowledge; but I have Understood, and I believe, that the latter acted in that business, by Virtue of the authority which he received from the former, to whom (for I was then Unacquainted with Mr. Williams) I made Application on my Arrival. Should

any

should any further Account be necessary I am always ready to give it as far as lays in my power.

If Mr. Lee will, for a moment, recur to my letter to him dated on board the Ranger the 26th. of Feby. last he will find no reason to charge me with want of due respect? — The Hand-Bill that was inclosed, by which I made myself Accountable to the people who entered to serve under my Command, for the regular payment of Wages, having been approved of by the Marine Committee, — as is certified to me under the hand of their Secretary, — the public Faith was thereby pledged to put it in my power, else I should have found other means, to fulfil that Engagement: And this appears to have been Mr. Lee's Opinion, when he wrote with his own Hand a letter of Credit in my favor at Passy the 10th day of January last, which I have now on the Table before me.

The handful under my command had been led thro' many dangers of Storms and Enemies, and tho' in want of Clothing or Money, were returned with some Credit to Brest, when I ventured on the 16th. of May to sign my first draft on the public Funds for their relief agreeable to my letter of advice; Yet my signature was dishonored. — Doctor Franklin nor Mr. Adams had not been acquainted with my engagement to the Crew; but Mr. Lee, who had been better informed, — concurred to dishonor my Draft — and left me with two Hundred Prisoners of War — a number of Sick and Wounded —

an

an almost naked Crew — and a Ship after a severe Engagement, in want of Stores and Provision, from the 9th of May until the 13th of June, destitute of any public Support. — yet in that time, I found means to cure my Wounded — to Guard my prisoners — to feed my People — and to refit the Continental Ship. — The dishonor that had been done me was publickly known thro' the French Fleet and every where; yet, tho' I was the first who had Appeared at Brest and claimed from France the Honors due to the American Flag, I made no public complaints; I only represented my concern by letter to the Commissioners at the disgraceful wound which the public credit had suffered at Brest thro' my side: — And I now beg leave to ask Mr Lee how I had deserved such treatment?

The wretched situation of the Crew naturally occasioned murmuring, which was artfully fomented by an Officer in disgrace, who succeeded but too well in persuading the People that I had deceived them; and that they should cast the whole blame on me, as the sole hinderance to their receiving not only Wages, but prize-money and bounties. — In this agitation of their Minds he obtained from them Certificates &ca to the Commissioners in his favor — which, with his own letters, will perhaps be found to have merited no answer. — These poor Men were at last dragged away without Clothing, having only received at Brest Eight or Nine Crowns each as prizemoney the day of their Departure, and not having time to lay out even that trifle —

They

4

They who saw them last reported that they kept below — refusing Duty; and imprecating general Curses on the public Service, the public Agents, and all concerned. — This is not the way to establish a Navy: Congress has made Laws for its internal Government, and appointed the Officers alone as Magistrates to put them in execution. — The standing order of the Marine Committee has been to preserve strict desciplin in the Fleet — and all applications of complaint, either against individuals or against numbers, they have rejected without answer; — It not being, as they have told me, the Province of the Civil Power to interfere in any respect in the internal Government of Ships of War. — And you may now see that listening to the People of the Ranger, instead of doing good has destroyed even the Shadow of Subordination.

Mr. Amiel has told me that you Objected to my receiving Copies of some papers that concern me — because you thought I had not made a respectful application. — A Copy of that application is therefore inclosed — which, tho' not in the form of an humble Petition, I believe it will be difficult to construe into Disrespect. — True respect can never be extorted, and I will say of myself

The tribute of respect to greatness due
Not the bribed sycophant more freely pays.

I shall only add that the dishonor of my Bill of Exchange has not only served to corroborate the Ungratefull Misrepresentations of Lieutenant Simpson — but has also occasioned the infamous attachment

attachment of the Rangers Prizes, for the Provision previously furnish-
-ed by Monsieur Bersolle.

I thank you Sir, sincerely for your polite Attentions while I was at Paris in the last Winter, which I received as a proof of your affection and good Opinion — and which, if I then merited, I have not since forfeited by any misconduct. For the apparent mystery of my present situation cannot be imputed to me as a Fault, — or, if it is, I am responsible for it to the — Congress. — I have endeavoured and shall endeavour, in my narrow walk, to pursue a steady line of Duty. wishing to offend none, I have the honor to be, with true respect —

Sir

Your very Obedient
very humble Servant

Jno P Jones

(No 260) John P. Jones
to
21 Nov. 1778

Chaillot à S.E. Mr. A. Lee, M.P. des E.U. de l'Am.

Lahaie 22d. Nov. 1778.

Monsieur,

Honoré de la vôtre du 12e, j'ai comuniqué ce qu'il falloit de son contenu à la personne que vous m'y indiquez, uniquement pour vous obéir; car je savois d'avance ce qu'il me répondroit, savoir: Qu'il se garderoit bien de faire à personne l'ouverture en question; que ce seroit le moyen de gâter tout ce que nous avons fait de bon jusqu'ici; qu'elle effaroucheroit les esprits non seulement par son volume, qu'ils trouveroient énorme, mais aussi, parce que, de sa nature, la chose ne sauroit rester un jour secrete; qu'elle ne pourroit servir qu'à faire soupçoner, que vos affaires vont mal, & que vos ennemis sont sur le point de regagner leur ancien ascendant sur vous; choses que ceux-ci ne cessent d'insinuer ici par mille contes, qui auroient bien besoin, pour rassurer les ames foibles, d'être pulvérisés par de bonnes nouvelles authentiques, qu'on est fort étonné de ne pas recevoir directement par la F——; que d'ailleurs, une proposition de cette nature, quand des circonstances favorables l'accompagneroient, devroit être faite non d'une maniere vague & hazardée, mais par tous les Comissaires, notament par celui qui est actuellement à leur tête, & en produisant en même temps un état précis & lucide de la situation des affaires, & des sûretés qu'on auroit à donner suffisantes pour l'avenir; avenir encore incertain, du moins pour les gens d'ici.

Voilà, Monsieur, en substance ce qu'on m'a répondu. Il est inutile de vous témoigner mes regrets, de n'avoir pas de réponse plus satisfaisante à vous rendre. J'ajouterai seulement, que la proposition est réellement prématurée, & que les circonstances internes où se trouve actuellement la rep. ne permettent pas de penser présentement à pareille affaire. Il faut énerver ici le parti de vos ennemis, hoc opus hic labor est.

Quand il le sera completement, cela seul vaudra plus d'un million st.
à votre patrie & à ses amis.

Je n'ai point perdu le Chiffre : mais il est enfermé avec d'autres papiers, dont je croyois n'avoir pas tous les jours besoin. Je profiterai du premier moment de loisir pour le chercher. Je suis avec beaucoup de respect, Monsieur,

Votre très-humble & très-obéissant
serviteur Dumas

Hon. Mr Lee
Rue de Battail No 5
Chaillot

The Bearer, is first Lt of the Boston - was sent by the Navy Board at Boston to S. Carolina and thence to France Commander of the Dispatch: but was taken. I think our Rule has been to lend Lts of the Frigates twenty Guineas. but considering Browns unhappy Circumstances on Account of Cloaths, and knowing his long Attachment to our Cause and his uncommon Merit, I wish he could have more but have not ventured to propose it. Dr F. is gone out.

This was accompanied with an Order on the Banker for 20 Louis d'ors signed by Mr Adams

28 Novr 1778

Nantes le 28. Novembre 1778.

(N° 261)

Monsieur

M. Schweighauser m'a dit aujourd'hui que vous lui aviez écrit de ne recevoir aucun objet de fournitures que MM. Penet et d'acosta doivent fournir à l'Etat de Virginie conformement au traité qu'ils ont fait avec vous: Je vous prie de ne point trouver mauvais la demarche que je fais de vous observer que l'Etat de Virginie a besoin de fusils et d'autres objets de guerre d'autant que ces memes armes sont d'une qualité supérieure et que les frais de l'inspection que j'en ai faite avec toute la rigidité possible en prouvent la bonté.

Je vous prie donc instamment, Monsieur, de les faire charger avec les autres articles si cela vous est agreable; dans le cas ou vous ne jugeriez pas apropos de leur donner cette voie, M. Dacosta m'a dit qu'il les feroient partir par le meme Navire en s'arrangeant avec l'armateur.

Je suis maintenant a inspecter les mil fusils d'artillerie qui sont également d'une bonté supérieure et très beaux, vous pourez meme vous flatter d'en recevoir des complimens de la part du gouvernement, car jusqu'à present, il n'y

a passé aucun fusil dans les etats unis qui soient d'une aussi bonne qualité:

Permettez que je vous rapelle les demandes que je vous ai faites dans ma derniere au sujet des lettres de recommandation que je vous priais de m'accorder, j'espere que vous voudrez bien que je sois le porteur de vos depeches pour le gouvernement de la Virginie: Vous avez vu un jeune officier de Dragons qui est un de mes Parents a qui vous eutes la complaisance de lui promettre une lettre de recommandation, si vous voulez me la joindre avec celle que je vous prie de m'accorder, c'est un surcroit de reconnoissance que je vous aurai, il a du aller chez vous deux marichaux de logis a qui j'ai ecrit d'aller vous trouver, ce sont deux hommes en état de montrer les differentes manœuvres tant de pied que de cheval; honorez moi je vous supplie d'un mot de reponse.

J'ai L'honneur d'Etre avec un profond respect

Monsieur

Votre tres humble
et tres obeissant serviteur
Le Maire

[illegible]

(No 261) Le Maire
Nov. 28th. 78

Le maire

Count Sarsf.

a Monsieur

Monsieur Arthur Lee Ministre
plenipotentiaire des Etats Unies
d'Amerique
a Chaillot

Voulez vous, Monsieur, me faire l'honneur de
diner chez moy Jeudi prochain. Je vous prie
d'avoir la bonté de me repondre tout de suite. Sans
de vos ordres [illegible] j'allois envoyer chez vous
Vous connoissez les sentimens que je vous ai voués

Paris le Samedi 28

Sarsfield

Je recois dans le moment le billet que vous
m'avez fait l'honneur de m'ecrire. Je suis tres
faché de la maladie de mad. Izard et des
autres dames. Je crains qu'il ne soit plus tems
d'aller voir le pavillon de mr le prince de Condé
Je m'en informerai et j'auray l'honneur de
vous faire part de ce que je sauray.

Si vous n'etiez pas libre Jeudy, voulez
vous Vendredi mais Jeudy seroit plus
commode

Mr A's Compts. to Mr Lee — The Bearer, a Namesake of Mr Lees Humble Servt, belongs to Boston. — Was a Lt of a Privateer — wants Money. — Mr Adams will take his Notes, and draw an order for Ten Louis for him, if Mr Lee approves. Mr Adams will be glad to take any Letters Mr Lee may have occasion to send. —

Sunday. Nov. 29. 1778

Craig. Neufville. Johnson. Archer. Cushing. Chiraban
du Bouchet. Jenings. Austin. Harris. Sullivan. Grubatone
Bergam Gontard of frankfort. Gannan. Page. Bryan
Dufaney. Temple. Gov. Henry. W. Nelson. Carter Nicholas
Bordley

Mr. Craig & Mr. Readhead return their Complements to Mr. Lee with particular acknowledgments of his politeness in the trouble he has taken to procure them Papers —

Mr. Craig presumes Mr. Digges must have enclosed the letter to Mr. Strahan his own as he has no letter with the address —

They will take particular in delivering the letters now sent —

Hotel d'Hambourg Sat. Morn —

Count Sarsefield

Le diner que M de Sarsfield avoit eu l'honneur de proposer a Monsieur Lee ne peut pas avoir lieu cette semaine. Il espere qu'il voudra bien lui conserver pour la suivante la meme bonne volonté. Il aura l'honneur de l'avertir quelques jours d'avance.

Mr Le prince de Condé arrive mardi ainsy Il n'y auroit que demain pour voir ~~Le~~ son pavillon ~~de~~ ~~[illegible]~~. mais Il y aura une ressource cet hiver dans les voyages qu'il fera a Versailles. Lm De Sarsfield sera averti. Lorsque les dames que Mr Lee desiroit d'y mener se porteront mieux, Elles pourront en profiter mais Il est vray qu'il

sera necessaire quelles soient prêtes a jour nommé parcequ'il ne sera pas possible de les avertir son a l'avance.

comme Le Billet Est sous le nom de mad. Gibbs, Il Est absolument necessaire qu'il y ait aumoins une dame dans la compagnie

Mr Du Vorficié renouvelle a Monsieur Lee L'assurance de son attachement

Dimanche 29 9bre

- Il Est bien faché d'Etre obligé de prier monsieur Lee de lui repondre un mot, Il desire d'Etre sur que cette lettre lui est parvenue

Mr. & Mrs. Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Hobson present their Complements to Mr. Lee are much obliged to him for his Attention to them on their Journey

Wednesday Morning

Arthur Lee Esqr.

Madrid 30th Novr. 1778.

Dear Sir

I wrote you the 28th Sepr. after a severe distemper which almost reduced me to the last extremity, & having since continued very poorly I am advis'd by my Doctor to change air so that I have determin'd to proceed for Bilbao in all this week, I shall be extreamly happy to hear from you there, & more so do I long to see you there in your way to this part of the world, In the mean time you may freely command, as I shall from thence be able to serve you the same as if I was here having the same connections & correspondence as if I was present. Whatever should ocurr that I should transactt here as formerly, you must lett me know separatly, I mean that you would write me under my own name & nott in a company letter. I hope the abovemention'd of the 28th Sepr. reach'd your hands, which

being what ye present state of health permits subscrive with unfeighned sincerety

Sir

Your aff. Fr. & Hble Servt.

J Gardoqui

about 7 Nov 78 ?

Dr. E. Downer is of Roxbury near Boston. —

Mr. Willm. Burt is of Charles Town S. Carolina. He left that place in the Betsey & Sally schooner 30. Septr. 1776. Mr. John Bayne being his Captn. He sold his cargo of Rice and Indigo at Port au Paix in Hispaniola, & took in Rum, Wine, Broad-cloth, with some Flannels and bale goods; and sailed on 21st of November for S. Carolina. On the 25. of Novr. he was taken by the Squirrel, Capt Stair Douglas, who flogg'd Captn. Bayne severely for not immediately telling him where the ships papers were. — Capt. Douglas took out such part of the cargo as he liked; and gave or sold the remainder to Capt. Henley of the Ship Ellis of Liverpool; who taking it out burned the schooner the next day. The schooner & cargo belonged in equal shares to Mr. Burt & two of his friends. — Capt Douglas took all Mr. Burts papers, (among which were notes to the amount of £65 Sterling.) with his chest, and all his cloathes, except foul linnen. When Mr. Burt came to Spithead he had no cash save one half dollar. He arrived at Spithead Decr. 24. 1776. He was put first on board the Monarch, and in about a week removed to the Barfleur, where he remained till ~~25~~ 15. Feb.y when he was sent to Haslar hospital, which place he left 1st. March. —

Captn. Seth Clarke is of Newbury in N. England. He sailed from thence in the Unity to Cape Nichola Mole, where he sold his cargo, and loaded entirely with Molasses & Sugar, half the vessel and cargo being his own property. On his return to Newbury he was taken 17th. of Septr. 1776. by the Porcupine armed schooner,

and carried into Jamaica. After staying some time here he i
put on board the Squirrel, Captn. Stair Douglas, and arrived
Spithead 24th. Decr. He was then put on board the Monar
where he remained only 8 days, & was then sent to the
Barfleur; on board which he continued till 15th. of Feb.
when he was admitted into Haslar hospital, which pla
he left in company with Mr. Burt, March 5th. —

Committee's Letter Decr. 2d. 1778

(No 262)

38 Million of Dollars, will be emitted by the close of this year, exclusive of provincial currency. Mr. Carmichael's informatn. that Mr. Lee had succeeded at Berlin. — 2 or 3 frigates to be sent to Mauritius to cruise — Heavy Iron Cannon useful — Ship building materials wanting — Send a plan of the Militia of Switzerland.

Resolve Novr. 10. 1777

To be sent — 500 tons of Lead
400 Do. Powder
One Million Gunflints
Tents for 50,000 men
10,000 yds. flannl. for Cartridges

Cloathing, Tunnees, Equipage, brass field pieces, Salt, as before ordered 130 thousd. Blankets. Two or three Gunflint makers — 3 or more Lead Workers & Refiners & as many skilled in finding & working Sulphur mines.

Committee's Letter
to Comrs.

(No 262)

(Decr 2 1778.)

Sir!

London the 3^d December 1770

Having for a Series of Years had the honor of a personal Acquaintance with you, I hope the Request I am about to make, will not be deemed an improper one, or desire by [illegible] I shall rely on your kind endeavors to [illegible] friend when with propriety it can be done [illegible] [prej]udicial to any one. I therefore beg Leave to introduce to you Mr Henry Farley the Gentleman who has the honor to wait on you with this Letter, & is the person [illegible] whose behalf I cannot but be solicitous that he may succeed.

In Consequence of some very flattering Assurances of Support from his Friends, his Intention was to set up in Business at Nantz, which was the sole motive of quitting his native Country at this calamitous juncture to reside in France, with a fixed resolution not to interfere in the Politics of that Kingdom to render himself obnoxious to it's Inhabitants, but on the [co]ntrary to acquire their esteem as becomes a peaceful Subject, & to perform the duties of his Profession in the mercatorial Line, & that only. When he got to Paris, his views were frustrated by the receipt of a Letter from the french Minister, telling him that no british Subjects are allowed to live in the Seaports, nor along the Coast, & that therefore he could not reside at Nantes, but might reside in the interior parts of the Kingdom, but as I am informed that that restriction has in some Instances been relaxed, I cherish hopes on the present Occasion the same Indulgence will be granted.

Mr Thomas Thompson of Dover who has always been a very steadfast Friend to the american Interest to his own detriment, as can be well proved by Mr Trevannion the present Member for Dover, & the same can be attested by the Rev.

Messrs Demward, Lyon, & Tournay of Dover) has placed his two Sons under the Care of Mr Farley, & their future Welfare solely depends on Mr Farley's Success in this entreprise; any Security or necessary forms that may be required for them to [illegible] with for the obtaining this Permission they will [illegible]sent to, & Mr Thompson wil pledge [illegible] the most solemn manner that his Friends have [illegible] [illegible] designs but what are strictly honorable, & true, as Friends to America, & peaceable Intentions with France. I hope Sir you will excuse the Liberty that I have taken to to plead in favor of a worthy Man whose case is peculiarly hard, & if not inconsistent with the nature of your Situation you can get this difficulty removed, you will lay me under a great obligation to you. My Mother presents her best Compliments to you, & all Friends. If I can be useful to you here, I beg you will not scruple to command Sir,

Your mo. obedt, & very hble Servant,

Geo. F. Norton.

The above Geo. F. Norton Esqr. is an American & has always been strongly attached to the cause of his Country. Arthur Lee

Chaillot Decr. 31st 1778

To his Excelly the honble Arthur Lee Esqr at Chaillot

Mrs Gibbes, & Miss Stevens present Compts to Mr Lee, & will do themselves the pleasure of dining with him tomorrow.

Tuesday Morn

Lesperance que Javois Monsieur davoir Lhonneur de vous donner adener nepeut pas Encore Serealiser cette Semaine. Je Desire bien que vous ne vous trouvies pas trop Ennuyé de toutes ces remises et que vous ayez la bonté deme conserver la meme bonnevolonté.

Vous Savez que Je Suis toujours a vos ordres pour mrs Gibbes, cest adire que Je vous avertirai de la Scéance de Mr Le prince de Condé Lorsquelle pourra

proffiter du billet qu'il luy a donné.
mad^lle est en peine de savoir si elle
est mere d'une Mlle Gibbes avec qui
elle a été autrefois

J'aurai l'honneur de vous dire que
si mad^e Gibbes revenoit a voir le
pavillon mad^e izard pourroit tres
bien y aller seule[?]

Vous connoissez Monsieur tous
mes sentiments

5 Xbre

Count Sarsfield will be happy in obeying the commands of m[illegible] and will have the honour to dine at his . friday next

7bre 1778

Je vous prie Monsieur de garder ce billet parce qu'en l'ecrivant je me suis apercu que je ne sais pas comment on repond a une invitation

Extrait d'une lettre de Paris en datte du 7. Dec.
1778

— Mr. J. Adams le Deputé ne reussit pas ici plus que de raison: il paroit etre entierement livré au Sr. Lee; lequel, comme vous le sçavez, est une espece de Fol. Il a choisi pour Agent du Congrès a Nantes le fils du maire de l'isle de Jersey qui est marié et etabli a Nantes. Vous pouvez donc juger, et nous en avons la preuve, que les Corsaires ennemis sont bien avertis de tous les vaisseaux qui partent de ce port pour l'amerique. J'en ai temoigné mon etonnement aux deputés, mais les choses sont toujours dans le meme etat. En tout soyez sur que si le Doct. franklin n'est pas seul deputé en france, les affaires n'iront que d'une aile.

Dobray Son of the Mair of Jersey is married to the Daughter of Swickhauser.

The above Extract is from a confidential Friend of the Minister of the marine departmt. and one of the Promoters of the Alliance

Endorsed by Chs. Thompson
Extract of a Letter relative to foreign Affairs laid on the Table by Mr. G. Morris
May 3. 1779

all the rest was in one hand writing seemingly a Frenchman's hand.

N B, Having asked Mr. Carmichael whether the hand writing was Mr. G. Morris's he told me, instantly "no it is mr. Holker's"

[signature]

Extracts of a Letter from France dated Dec. 7. 1778

(No 263)

"I wish I could unbosom my self to you without reserve, concerning the State of Affairs here. — The two Passions of Ambition & Avarice, which have been the Bane of Society and the Disgrace of human Kind in all Ages & Countries, are not without their Influence, but [illegible] of the two, the last has done the most Mischief [illegible] where this is [illegible] the Press will ascertain and you & I have had too much Experience of the Greediness with which the Commercial Frauds were aimed at under the old Government, [illegible] the Affairs of the American Bank [illegible] [illegible] will not [illegible] [illegible] Appearance [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] your old Friend, [illegible] [illegible] that he was [illegible] friendly to the English, [illegible] [illegible] and even that he cor-responded with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and I am perfectly [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] could not have made confident [illegible] contradicted it in the [illegible] of the Colleague [illegible] [illegible] Attachment to our [illegible] [illegible] and I have not a [illegible] [illegible] that from that time to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from the [illegible] of his Country [illegible] [illegible] — The other Gen-tleman, whom you know, I need not say much of. you know

know his [illegible] his Desire of [illegible] and of
promoting his Relations. — you also know his Art and his
Enterprise. Such Characters are often useful, tho' always
to be carefully watched & controlled, especially [illegible] in a
government [illegible] — [illegible] been so [illegible] and in
[illegible] and among [illegible]
[illegible] in the English [illegible] & by private
Trade. [illegible] Nothing [illegible] to [illegible]. Our
Countrymen will naturally [illegible] of that time, and
it will be expected [illegible] something of it.
I assure you I know Nothing about it. An intimate Friend
of his [illegible] to you, certainly
speculated largely in the [illegible] between the [illegible]
[illegible]; but I know of
no Proof that he [illegible] Department
[illegible] he & his
[illegible] but I know Nothing
[illegible]
[illegible] Whether
[illegible]

[illegible]

The other Gentleman [illegible] by his
[illegible] with the Body to
[illegible] by that
[illegible] by the Court
Body with the [illegible]
[illegible] But [illegible] the
[illegible]
That & the [illegible] — yet
[illegible]
I am sorry [illegible] such
[illegible] there is
[illegible] is not
[illegible] so

so free as I wish to write you; but still it is too free to be used without Discretion. You will use it accordingly for the publick good. Knowing the Animosity that has been-
-against one here which I believe to have been carried to an unwarrantable Length - knowing the Inveteracy of many subaltern & collateral Characters, which I think is injurious to the Individual and to the Publick, & knowing that you will have these things in Contem-
-plation and much at Heart, I have said thus much of my Sentiments upon these Subjects, which I hope will do no harm.

(No 263)

Extract of Letter from France,
Dec. 7th 1778.

Vindicates A. Lee from the charges
circulated there sub. rosa.

1778

Extracts of a Letter from France dated Dec. 7. 1778.

"I wish I could embosom my self to you without Reserve concerning the State of Affairs here.- The two passions Ambition & Avarice, which have been the Bane of Society and the Curse of human Kind in all Ages & Countries, are not without their Influence; but I fancy of the two, the last has done the most mischiefe where the Carcass is, there the few will assemble: and you & I have had too much Experience of the Greediness with which the Loaves & Fishes were aimed at under the old Government, to repeal that the Coffers of the American Bankers here, would not make some Mans Mouth water . Their Appetite I take to have been the Source of most of the Altercations & Dissentions here.

your old friend A.L. is a Man of Honor & Integrity, altho' he has some Notions of Elegance Rank & Dignity that may be carried too far. He has been of opinion that the publick Money has been too freely issued here & has often opposed. The other you know personally, and that he loves Ease, hates to offend, & seldom gives his opinion until oblif'd to do it "---" Both he and the other Colleague, I am sorry to say it, were in a constant opposition to your old Friend, and this is as carried so far, that Insinuations, I have been told, have been made at Court against your old Friend, not by either of his Colleagues that I have ever heard - that he was too friendly to the English, too much attached to L' Shelburne, and even that he corresponded with his Lordship, and communicated Intelligence to him. This, whoever suggested it, I am perfectly confident was a cruel calumny, and coud not have made an Impression, if the Colleagues had contradicted it in the Manner you and I should have done. We had the opportunity to have his invarible attachment to our Cause long before Hostilities commenced; and I have not a Color of a Ground of Suspicion, that from that time to this that he has desisted an Iota from the Cause of his Country in Thought Word or Deed." - The other Gentleman, that you knew, I need not say much of. You know

[2]

his Ambition - his Desire of making a Fortune and of promoting his relations. - You also know his Act and his Enterprise. Just Characters are often useful, altho' always to be carefully watched &

controrold especially in such a government as ours. There has been so much said in America and among Americans here, about his making a Fortune by speculating in the English Fund, & by private trade, that it is saying Nothing now to mention it. Our Countrymen will naturally desire to know if it is true, and it will be expected of me that I should say something of it. I assure you I know Nothing about it. An intimate Friend of his, who recommended the Major to you, certainly specul ated largely in the Fund, from whence the suspicion arose that the other was concerned with him; but I know of no Proof that he was. Combination, Associations, Copartnorships in Trade have been formed here, in which he and his Brother are supposed to be connected, but I know Nothing more than you do about them. But, supposing it was prooved that he speculated and traded, the Question is, whether it is justifiable. Neither you nor I should have done it, most certainly." "Three of the Gentlemen of Character, who are now in America from this Country, particularly ------, altho their characters are good, it is to be feared have Prejudice insinuat'd, but then against your old Correspondent. I am extremely sorry for this; because I think it is against a worthy Character, and know it will be likely to have unhappy Effects both with you and abroad."

The other Gentlemen, whose Consolation, when left cut by his first Constituents, was that he stood code with the Body to whic he was consoled himself also, when recalled by that Body, with the thought that he was esteemed by the Court where he had visited. This no doubt, will be displayed in all its variegated colon- The -- and -- but above all the Fleet and the Magnificence that accompanied it will be all repeated and sang in changes in order to magnify Merit - yet I am sorry to see in the News papers such Expressions as these " Mr. --- who is as the principal Negociator." - Such Expressions, if true, ought not to be used. But there is Cause to doubt the Justice of them" "This letter is not so

[3]

free as I wish to write you; but still it is too free to be used without Discretion - you will use it accordingly for the publick good. Knowing the Animosity that has been against one here, which I believe to have been carried to an unwarrantable Length - knowing the Invokracy of many subaltern and collatereral Characters, which I think is injurious to the Individual and to the publick, & knowing that you will have these

things in Contemplation and much at Heart, I have said this much of my Sentiments upon these Subjects, which I hope will do no harm.

Vindicates A. Lee from the charges circulated there sub-rosa.

Dear Sir (No 264) Nantes Decr 10th 1778

You are perhaps surprised at my long silence, I do assure you I should not have forborn so long return=ing my thanks for your kind letter, had I not been in hopes of executing your commands; I have done all in my power to assist Mr. Williams, but without effect, there has been a coolness in him towards me ever since my ar=rival, owing to my imprudence in expressing my Opinion of Messrs. Franklin & Adams; I should be sorry ever to see any disunion between the northern & southern States but cant help thinking you must be sensible how partial they are to their shoe string gentry, Mr. Adams's behaviour to Captn. Livingston is an Instance how far his contracted sentiments can carry him, & I make no doubt he would at any time give the command of a Fregate to a Cape Cod fisherman, rather than to a Southern Gentleman who had spent his life in the Navy.

I have formed a very agreeable acquaintance with your Nephew at this Place, & shall allways strive to make a proper return for the many civilities & kind assistance I have received from you; if I can be of service to you in any thing upon my

arrival in America, I shall be very happy in having an opportunity of shewing my gratitude; I never had the Pleasure of seeing Capt.n Livingston untill since my letter to you he has given me the command of the Marines on board his ship; & I hope in a few weeks to visit the Land of Liberty, my Compli=
=ments to your Nephew & Mr. Ford, I should be glad to know if Mr. Ford thinks Mr. Norton has received the Letter I sent to his care; I am

Dear Sir   Your Sincere Friend

Much Obliged &
Very Hum.e Ser.t

Alex.r Dick

(No 63.)
Alexr. Dick
to
A. Lee Minister
(10: Decr 1778.)

(No 264)

2. 12

The Honble Arthur Lee Esqr
l'un des Ministres Plenipotentiaires
des Etats Unis de l'Amerique
No. 5 Rue Bataille Chaillot
près Paris

Capt. Dick

No. 63.

Decr. 10th 1778

Dear Sir

It was not possible for me to acknowledge your favor of Novr. 29th by the same post wch. gave me pleasure of knowing that you & your lovely family were well: Nor will I now particularly notice the subjects you hinted to me. I will rather give you a few Extracts of our Journals, and an anecdote of our friend Adams to enable you to read the Prints wth. a proper comprehension of the plotting spirit of some of the chaps who are scribbling therein, and of the serpentine, malicious and elusive course which others have been contriving for themselves since you left us. ——

Temple came to this City about 10 days ago bringing Letters of high Recommendation both to Congress & to the

124

Delegates of Massachusetts. His Letters were from the Council of our State Gov.r Trumbull Gen.l Washington Gov.r Livingston and the first Whigs indisputably of Boston. Mr. Adams conducted Mr Temple from his Lodgings to the President's to introduce the Delivery of the mentioned Letters. This *single call* at the Door of the man's Lodging is termed to the public "so *frequent* in ex*change* of Visits". and probably by the very tall Wiseacre who was for constituting a semblance of the french Lieutenancy of police to *fall in with* *pimp upon* and otherwise *entrap* all visiting Strangers, even so far as to write fictitious Letters and intercept.g the answers. But I drop this pitiful subject only remarking that the HINT in the Prints is a good answer to all our recommendatory
521 Letters, for there was nothing public

or private which Mr. T ought not rather to have communicated by Letter than by a visit. I must give you my Key to his whole Proceedings. It is in the Cry of the Preacher "Vanity of Vanities, all is Vanity".

1778

Nov.r 30 On Motion

Resolved That Congress meet on Wednesday Evening at 6 o'Clock to consider the proceedings of the Courts martial on the Tryals of Maj.r Gen.l Lee Maj.r Gen.l Schuyler & Major Gen.l St Clair. —

Dec.r 1st. A Letter of Nov.r 30th. from Silas Deane Esq was read, whereupon

Resolved That, after Tomorrow, Congress will meet two Hours at least each Evening beginn.g at 6 o'Clock, Saturday Evenings excepted, until the present State of our foreign affairs be fully considered.

Dec.r 5 A Letter of the 4th. from Silas Deane Esq.r was read

Ordered that Monday Evening be assigned for hearing Mr. Deane & that he be notified

to attend. 125-6

Dec. 7th. Resolved that Silas Deane Esqr. report to Congress in Writing as soon as may be his Agency of their affairs in Europe together with any Information which he may judge proper

That Mr. Deane be informed that if he hath any thing to communicate to Congs. in the Interim, of immediate Importance he shall be heard Tomorrow Eveng. at 6 o'c

He published on the 5th. notwithstanding Resolve of the 1st. upon his Letter of Novr. 30th. It is true he dates Novr. blank to give his Piece the Air of precedency but if he had really appealed to the Public why write to us on the 30th.

He had made himself a Culprit before our Bar by refusing to answer any Interrogatories "tending to criminate himself". he was the cause of afterda

I need add no more to you: therefore conclude, your humble Servant affectionately

[illegible] 11.

Jas Lovell

(No 266) Decr 11. 78

Mr. Genet will be very oblig'd to His honour, ~~Mr.~~ Arthur Lee when he writes to america to procure him one copy of the Poëm, or what will be out, of the Poem America Invincible advertis'd in the Boston prints Danvers — Sepr. 7. — The Subscriptions to be receiv'd at Russel' printing office, Boston, and almost any where in america

and also the Constitutions of N. Hampshe. — N Carolina georgia and Massachusets when there's any.

[No 265]

déc 11

When I have some parcel that is of importance to send to Mr. Bridgen, I direct it to Calais to Mr. Dorquee Commissary of the navy, advising him that the contents are secret, and must be convey'd by a safe opportunity, at the same time desiring of him not to forward it soon but rather to expect till the good opportunity offers.

I'll obey Monsieur Lee's orders, whenever he pleases and am very dutifully

Hon'd Sir your

Genet

(Nº 265)

Mr. Arthur Lee député du Congrès
} a Chaillot

Genet to A. Lee
Dec. 11th

[illegible]

[illegible]

(No 266) Genet to A. Lee
Dec. 11th 1778

Arthur Lee to Theoderic Bland.

Treaty with France.

Paris, Dec. 13th 1778. — "I see by the public prints with you, that my quondam colleague (Deane) is assuming all the merit of what has been done here, & I know he is forming a faction against your friend (me.) I should never have opened my lips upon the subject, did not their assuming merits which they did not deserve make it an act of justice to state the facts. So far then were my colleagues from having any peculiar merit in the treaties, that it was with the greatest difficulty I persuaded them to insist on the recognition of our sovereignty, and the acknowledgement of our independence. These were ~~afte~~ proposed by your friend, evaded by his colleagues, and only admitted after being re-urged in a manner that made them apprehend the consequences of an opposition they could not justify. It was also in spite of the opinion, reasoning, and even remonstrance of your friends, ~~that~~ they would insert two articles in the treaty, which articles were unanimously condemned by Congress, and have been expunged here. After this, one would imagine they might have been contented with an equal share of praise, when in truth their conduct had merited censure. They will force me one day or other to bring the proofs of these things before Congress and the public, when I am sure they will shed some of their borrowed plumes."

"Mr Deane is universally understood

to have made £60,000 sterling while he was commissioner".

[I quote the above to show the tone of mind & spirit of the writer. Literally speaking there is hardly any truth in the whole passage. So far from "never opening his lips upon the subject", he rarely wrote a letter to any person, which was not filled with a tirade against his colleagues. He brings in this topic on all occasions by force. Who will believe ~~that~~ Franklin & Deane were opposed to the "acknowledgement of our independence" on the part of the French? How could the treaty be made without this acknowledgement? The very first step by the French government implied that they were treating with an independent power; and one of the terms of the treaty itself was, that the United States should never treat with any power, who did not recognize their independence. This was the great point, which the French expected to gain by the treaty, & for which they made war against England. How absurd is it then, to say that the other commissioners were opposed to this recognition.

As to Deane's making £60,000 sterling, it is sufficiently confuted by the fact, ~~that~~ he left France with barely sufficient to pay his expenses in Philadelphia, and when he returned two years afterwards to Paris, he was entirely destitute, and actually received gratuitous assistance from the French govt. for his subsistance)

his most Christian Majesty, and esteem the [1779 (No 3332)]
the wise and generous aid we have received from the french Nation, for
of our Independence, and the happiness of my Country —
France has now the honor Sir to lead other Nations in
Philosophy, and to be far above all in the ~~[illegible]~~ best branch
of it, the Philosophy of humanity. Such wisdom and
generosity cannot fail to be attended with correspondent effects
preeminent greatness.

~~The late large supply of provisions sent to Antigua, denotes the enemies design of ~~[illegible]~~ or receiving the West Indies the seat of war – I hope the Catholic King will give his aid to render abortive any plan of this kind that our enemies may have formed~~

The late large supply of provisions sent to Antigua, denotes
the enemies ~~[illegible]~~ opinion that the West Indies ~~[illegible]~~ will in future be the seat
of war. I hope the aid of his Catholic Majesty will ~~render~~ be
an additional means of frustrate every plan of defence that Great Britain may
form in that Quarter.

As my wishes for your health are
very sincere, so it will give me pleasure to hear that
you are perfectly recovered from the indisposition that
afflicted you when I left Philadelphia.

I have the honor to be with sentiments
of the highest esteem and regard Sir Your most
obedient and very humble Servant

Richard Henry Lee

Hon. The Sieur Gerard
Minister Plenipotentiary from his Most Christian
Majesty to the United States of N. America, at
Philadelphia

(No 332)

R. H. Lee to M. Gerard
The French Envoy.

A Fragment - without date
1779.

1779

[illegible] 13 Dec. 78.

I am obliged to you for the Congress Manifesto which looks well. If they have tan proper measures to get information of what is plan'd at N. Y. they may give timely notice at Chas. Town of the expedition, in which it may fail of success, for the chances must be against them unless the people in Carolina are taken by surprize; this expedition & the forces sent to the W. Indies must weaken Clinton so much that I shd. hope Washington will return the compliment to N. Y. which they intend for Chas. Town. Nothing wd. have been more easy if Count D'Estaing had gone streight there from Boston, but things in that squadron have gone hitherto in such a train from the begining that I expect nothing of Eclat from the end.

I never expected any good from Penet's house as my former Letters will tell, but it seems to me quite necessary that you sh. give immediate & repeated notice to the State of the conduct of this house for Penet has gone out there near 4 Months ago, & you know how he is calculated to deceive & impose on our [illegible] trymen, fine Chatter, a cringing flattering & lying [illegible] in whom there cannot be the least confidence placed; that will promise & agree to every thing & never perform a single article. Iron Canon can be got at Liege of any size & in any quantity from 15 to 17 £ the quintal, the transport to a Sea Port abt. 5 £ the quintal more, which will mak[e] 22 £ the quintal ready money, but then they can't be

[illegible] Governm[illegible]

-bted it, & to ship them [illegible] the risk passing thro' the channel [illegible] be fall[illegible] the quintal, no matter the whole if [illegible] Canon at [illegible] deliverd on board at £27 the quintal, if they are [illegible] seller will wait for pay-ment till remittances can come by the vessel that carrys them. I think we sh^d. not hesitate about taking them, if there is any convoy to send them by, because I take it for granted that sooner or later in their spirit of [illegible]tation they will m[ake] an attempt on Virginia against which every provision sh^d. be made that is possible. I mean the heavy Canon for I sup-pose you recollect that besides what were orderd by Le-Maire & the subsequent Invoice that you had, 20 thirty six pounders were order'd in May last to erect a fortifica-tion at York Town. 5000 Stoles w^d. send as much Iron Canon as is necessary with Ball & powder sufficient. — Clinton is under great apprehensions for N. Y. &c & I have no doubt that the Reg^ts. now on foot in Eng. & Irel^d. will be sent to him as soon as possible cannot the Fr. Ministry be prevaild on to send out a force to intercept them on the passage. I wish you had told me whether my dft on the Com^ee for £24000, in favor of M^r. Grand was to be paid or not. This Bill I sent to M^r. Grand from hence the 9th inst^t. & at same time by Letter advised the Com^ee of it. Be so good as to let me know by return of post what is done [illegible] business. I suppose the privy councillor C[illegible]t in the Garden & some other runers wi[ll] be consulted before an answer is given to y^e. proposition made to th[e] 36^s. We wish you all a happy new year &c — adieu.

3 .

Mr De Sarsfield Lespere avoir Lhonneur de diner demain avec M Lee a Lhotel de la Rochefoucaut mais cela ne Lempeche pas de le preier pour Samedi prochain de lui faire Lhonneur de diner Chez lui Rue pot de fer.

Dimanche 13 Xbre 1778

My Dear Bro.r Philadelphia Dec.r 15. 1778

(No 257)

[I do not wonder at your disgust at the wickedness & folly of mankind. I have so much of the same feeling; that I am sure, there can be no condition in Life more unhappy, than to be engaged in the managem.t of public affairs, with honest intentions. but hard as the lot is it must be borne at least till things have got into a tolerable way.] We have had nothing from the party since my last; only that Mr. Wm. Lee's name is in the list of Aldermen, in the Calender for 1778. I expect an attack in this days paper, upon S. Deane, by Common Sense. he knows a good deal of the transactions, & if in earnest, can do a great deal of good. [Congress has yet done nothing in finance or foreign affairs. I fear there is a design in some that nothing shall be done, that things may get into such disorder, as to make the people wish for the Old Governm.t — Congress has no power, & every villain whom they want to call to account, insults them.

The inclosed Letter from Mr Laurence, will give you an Account of his resignation & his reasons. he is really an honest Man, & I hope will do a great deal of Good.

Jay, is President.

We have Accounts from N. York, that 30,000 ton of Shipping is order'd to be taken up for Govern.t service, and an Embargo laid on all Vessels. this looks like a move?

Maryland still refuses to confederate, & is going to publish a declaration of their rights & grievances, in a very high & violent tone, it is said. I am well informed, that the tories have the upper hand in that Assembly, a striking instance of it, is the tories of Kent County, petitioned to be excused from taking the oath of allegiance, as there was still danger of being conquered by G. B. and it was negatived by a small majority. so barefaced have they grown.

Love to Chantilly & Stratford. Comps. to friends.

Yr. affly

F. L. Lee

Fran. Lightfoot Lee
Dec. 15th 1778
~~(No. 187.)~~
(No 267)

Dec. 15. 1778
F. Lightfoot Lee Esq.

~~No 187.~~

(Duplicate) (No 2687 ~~270~~)

To the Printer of the Pennsylvania General Advertiser

I have just red in your Advertiser of December 5th a long libel signed Silas Deane, but I have read it with that Composure that ever attends a good Conscience, and that Satisfaction which arises from an additional proof that I have well done my Duty as a Servant of the public. Had the latter not been the case, had I winked at all information of public abuse, I did not think that I should have incurred Mr Deane's censure. But whilst I am honored with public trust it shall be my constant endeavor to prevent the community from being injured, and certainly to insist that all those who have fingered large sums of the public money should be called upon for fair and honest settlement. From the first origin of Congress to the present day I have been constantly a member of that body, and I can safely appeal to every Gentleman with whom I have served there, and to all who know me in private life whether I have yielded to any of my Colleagues in zeal for the American cause and Industry to promote its success. Whether thro' the varying stages of prosperity and adversity my sentiments and conduct have not been uniformly warm for the freedom, happiness and Independence of my country. That the alliance with France has been an ardent wish and hope no Man who knows me will deny, and all Gentlemen of that country with whom I have had business can bear me witness of my attention and regard to their affairs. With such unvarying conduct, and sentiments when I had not a pulse but beat to independence, and with a mind filled with reverence and gratitude for France in consequence of her wisdom and goodness in allying with us it seems hard to be attacked by an Innuendo Man for sinister designs in favour of a detested enemy against a good and able friend. But the case of Dr Berkenhout is the foundation whereon this calumny rests, A worse foundation was never given to an abominable superstructure. It has already been related in a former paper, how I came to know that such a man was in America. The truth is, that I was a total stranger to him, and when I recieved a letter from General Maxwell informing me that such a person was with him it was some minutes before I could recollect the name having only heard Dr Lee say ten years ago that he was the author of a good Pharmacopia, a person with whom he was acquainted and that he was a man of parts. I then immediately read the letter to Congress and informed them what I knew of Dr Berkenhout which

is

as above related. Soon after this he arrived in town and sent a ticket to know when he should wait on me being at dinner when we rose from table I asked an honourable member of congress (Col. Scudder of New Jersey) to walk with me to see him. we went, and after some general conversation about the state of affaires in England, he asked me if I had recieved any letter from Dr. Lee concerning him I answered no he appeared to be concerned, and imputed it to my ... his having left England too soon after requesting such introductory letter. This is a strong circumstance against the supposition that he brought letters for me, for if he had, why not then produce them, he brought neither letter nor letters to me, nor carried any from me, altho both are insinuated. The next day I think he came to my lodgings and informed me that his intention in coming to America was to procure a settlement for his family in a land of liberty, and to find a place where he could practise physick to advantage, on which subject he asked my advice. I gave him the best in my power. And I promised to introduce him to the deligates of Massachusetts that he might be informed whether Boston afforded a good opening for a physician. Besides, as these Gentlemen know, and finished the afternoon by walking round a square or two of the town and parted. After this I never saw Dr. Berkenhout, but a few minutes in company with other Gentlemen in a public room. I do declare upon the honour of a Gentleman, and the faith of a christian, that I had not the most distant cause to suppose that he had other views in coming to America than those already mentioned which he related to me as true ones. In all his conversation, which was sensible, he discovered strong attachments to America, and to confirm them he gave me a pamphlet written by himself and published in England in 1777 which strongly contended for the Independence of North America, from once reading this pamphlet I thought it well written. In this situation of things it may easily be imagined that I was surprised at a publication in the advertiser stating Dr. Berkenhout and Mr. Temple as ministerial agents from a newspaper publication in England. This I understood procured the arrest of the former. How long he remained in prison, when, and how I am an utter stranger to. This certain, that his conduct and conversation had strongly impressed my mind with an opinion of his attachment to our cause, and and as a friendless stranger it is not to be wondered that I expressed favourable sentiments of him whenever he was mentioned in conversation. If I think a man innocent, and a friend of America, it appears to me both unjust, and ungenerous not to say so when I see him oppressed. Give me satisfactory proof that any man willingly injures, and is an enemy to the Independence and interest of my country be he who he will I am from that moment his Enemy. It is said by Mr.

Mr Deane that Dr Berkenhout was sent back with the knowledge he had been able to collect. I am at a loss to discover what collections in jurious to us he could have made in jail, for I believe he was but a few days at large, and in a city where he was a total stranger. But it seems Dr Berkenhout has said that by the alliance with France America was at Liberty to make peace without consulting her ally unless England declared war, and it is constantly asserted that I have constantly and pertinaciously maintained this doctrine. Innuendo that Dr Berkenhout got this information from me. I absolutely deny having ever conversed with him on any such subject and I do as positively deny having ever maintained that America had a right by the alliance to make peace without consulting her ally if England did not declare war. I know that war may be made without declaring it, and I have both within and without doors said that if England would acknowledge the independance of America and not resent the part that France had taken, America was at Liberty to make a similar treaty with England or any other nation. And I should be glad to know if the ministers of France have not made the same declaration at the courts of both London and the Hague. Was not the fact so. But there is no limit to disingenuous and malevolent misinterpretation, nor to the dark art of Innuendo and evil suggestion. I am to ask pardon of the public and of you Mr Dunlap for having said so much on so frivolous an occasion. But I have such deep respect for the public opinion and such desire not to be misunderstood or disesteemed by one worthy man in the United States, that I shall not regret my trouble if I prevent a single honest [illegible] of America from being imposed on. For the curious charges brought by Mr Deane against Mr Wm Lee and Dr Lee, he will be called to answer at another time and in another place. For the present I can say, that from a very intimate acquaintance with these gentlemen, and from their uniform public conduct as far as the same has come to my knowledge I know them to be devoted to the cause of America. That they have made great sacrifices to this cause, and that their hopes rest alone upon its success. That their present political appointments did not arise from the solicitation of themselves or their relations. Mr Deane talks much about his great services and good conduct, but how happens it that of four Commissioners besides himself, three are so clear and so strong in reprobating that conduct? Nor are these the only

(No 2689)

only men that have done so, as I shall make appear hereafter. I cannot help concluding this hasty narrative with cautioning my Countrymen against the present industrious art of our enemies, practised in order to create doubts concerning the characters of the firm invariable friends to our glorious cause, and to throw the whole councils of America into confusion and contempt. But this I trust it will be as effectually baffled by the virtue of America as their other Arts have been whether of force or fraud.

Richard Henry Lee

1

Dec. 16th 78

To the Printer of the Pennsylvania General Advertiser

(No 268)

No. 172

I have just read in your paper of december the 5th a long Libel signed Silas Deane, but I have read it with that composure that ever attends a good conscience, and that satisfaction which arises from an additional proof that I have well done my duty as a servant of the public. Had the latter not been the case, had I winked at all information of public abuses I do not think that I should have incurred Mr. Deanes censure. But whilst I am entrusted with public trust it shall be my constant endeavour to prevent the community from being injured, and to insist that those who have had large sums of money should be called upon for fair and honest settle=ment. From the first origin of Congress to the present day, I have been constantly a Member of that body, and I can safely appeal to every gentleman with whom I have served, and to all who knowe me in private life, whether I have yielded to any of my Colleagues in zeal for the American cause, and industry to promote its success. Whether thro the various stages of prosperity and adversity my sentiments and conduct have not been uniformly warm for the freedom, happiness, and independence of my Country. That the Alliance with France has been my constant wish and hope no man who knows me will deny, and those gentlemen of that country with whom I have had business can bear me witness of my attention and regard to their affairs. With such unvarying conduct and sentiments when I had not a pulse but beat to indep=dence, and with a mind filled with reverence and gratitude for France in consequence of her wisdom & goodness in allying with us, it seems hard to be attacked by an innuendo man for sinister designs in favor of a detested enemy against a good and able friend. But the case of Dr. Berkenhout is the foundation whereon this calumny rests. A worse foundation

was never given to an abominable superstructure. It has already been related in a former paper, how I came to know that such a man was in America. The truth is, that I was a total stranger to him. And when I received a letter from Gen. Maxwell informing me that such a person had been with him, it was some moments before I could recollect the name, having only heard Dr. Lee say ten years ago that he was the author of a good pharmacopea, a person with whom he was acquainted, and who was a man of parts. I then immediately [read] the letter to Congress and informed them what I knew of Dr. Birkenhout, which is as above related. Soon after this he arrived in [town] and [the next morning] sent me a ticket to know when he should wait on me. [Being at] dinner, when we rose from Table, I asked an honorable [member] of Congress (Colo. Scudder of New Jersey) to walk with me to [see him]. We went, and after some general conversation he asked me if I had received any letter from Dr. Lee concerning him. I answ. no, he appeared concerned, and imputed it, as my memory serves me to his having left England too soon after requesting such introductory letter. This is a strong circumstance against the supposition that he brought letters for me; for if he had, why not then produce them. He brought neither letter nor letters for me, nor carried any from me, altho both are insinuated. The next day I think, he came to my lodgings and informed me that his intention in coming to America was to provide a settlement for his family in a land of liberty, and to find a place where he could practice physick to advantage on which subjects he asked my advice. I gave him the best in my power, and I promised to introduce him to the Delegates of Massachusetts that he might be informed whether Boston afforded a good opening for a physician. I did so, as these gentlemen know, and finished the afternoon by walking round a square or two of the Town and parted. After this I never saw Dr. Birkenhout [but] a few minutes in company with other gentlemen in a public room. I do declare upon the honor of a Gentleman and the faith of a Christian, that I had not the most distant cause to suppose that he had other views in coming to America than those already mentioned, which he related to me as the true ones. In all his conversation, which was sensible, he discovered strong attachment to America, and to confirm this opinion of him he gave me a pamphlet as written by himself and published in England in 1777 which strongly contended for the independence of North America. From once reading this pamphlet I thought it well written, and I believe

it is now in the hands of a Member of Congress to whom I lent it.
In this situation of things, it may be easily imagined that I was
surprised at a publication in the Advertiser stating Dr. Berkenhout
and Mr. Temple as Ministerial Agents from a newspaper
publication in England. This I understood procured the arrest
of the former. How long he remained in prison, when, and how
he was discharged I am an utter stranger to. It is certain
that his conduct and conversation had strongly impressed my
mind with a belief of his attachment to our cause, and as a
friendless stranger too, it is not to be wondered at that I ex-
=pressed favorable sentiments of him whenever he was men-
=tioned in conversation. If I think a man innocent, and I believe
him to be a friend of America, it appears to me both unjust
and ungenerous not to say so, when I see him oppressed. Give
me satisfactory proof that any man willingly injures, and is an
enemy to the interest and independence of America I am from
that moment his enemy. It is said by Mr. Deane, that Dr.
Berkenhout was sent back with the knowledge he had been
able to collect — I am at a loss to discover what collection in=
=jurious to us he could have made in Jail, for I believe he was
but a few days at large, and in a City where ~~[illegible]~~ he was
very little known. But it seems that Dr. Berkenhout has said
that by the alliance with France, America was at liberty to make
peace without consulting her Ally unless England declared
war, and it is as confidently asserted that I have constantly
and pertinaceously maintained this doctrine. Innuendo,
that Dr. Berkenhout got this doctrine & information from me.
I absolutely deny having ever conversed with him on any
such subject, and I do as positively deny having ever maintai-
ned that America had a right by the Alliance to make
peace without consulting her Ally if England did not
declare war. I know that war may be made without
declaring it, and I have both within and without doors
said, that if England would acknowledge the independence
of America and not resent the part that France had
taken, America was at liberty to make a similar treaty
with England or any other Nation. And I should be
glad to know if the Ministers of France have not made
like declarations to the Courts of London & the Hague.

No 68 4

Was not the fact so? But there is no bound to ~~the~~ disingenuous and malevolent interpretation, nor to the dark work of innuendo and evil insinuation.

I am to ask pardon of the public and of you Mr. Dunlap for having said so much on so frivolous an occasion. But I have such deep respect for the public opinion, and such desire not to be misunderstood or disesteemed by one worthy Man in the United States, that I shall not regard my trouble if I prevent a single honest friend of America from being imposed on.

For the curious charges brought by Mr. Deane against Mr. Wm. Lee and Dr. Lee, he will be called to answer at another time and in another place. For the present I can say, that from a very intimate acquaintance with those gentlemen, and from their uniform public conduct so far as the same has come to my knowledge, I know them to be devoted to the cause of America. That they have made great sacrifices to this cause, and that their hopes rest alone upon its success. That their present political appointments did not arise from the solicitation of themselves or their relations, but from their known public and private attachment to their native Country and its liberties. Mr. Deane talks much about his great services and good conduct, but how happens it that of four Commissioners besides himself three are so clear and so strong in reprobating that conduct. [and these three known friends of America and two of them having [illegible]] ~~[illegible]~~. Nor are these these three Commissioners the only persons that have done so in France. But more of this hereafter. I cannot help concluding this Narrative with cautioning my Countrymen against falling into the present arts of the Enemy who are endeavoring by every means to traduce in every post the most uniform and firm friends to our glorious cause, and to throw the councils of America into confusion and contempt. But I trust this their last hope will, with their other arts be frustrated by the wisdom of America

Virginia 16 decr. 1778. Richard Henry Lee

Passy à LL. EE. M. les Plenip.res des E. U. de l'Am.

La Haie 18e Dec. 1778

Messieurs,

J'ai vu notre Ami. Il y a deux Comittés, pour besogner, l'un sur de nouvelles plaintes auxquelles les Anglois viennent de donner lieu; l'autre sur la réponse à faire au Mémoire de Mr. l'Ambr. de France, dont je vous ai envoyé copie. On ne saura le résultat que la semaine prochaine.

On m'a envoyé d'Amsterdam, afin d'en faire part au Congrès, la Protestation imprimée de cette ville contre la Resolution du 18e. Cette importante Piece est de 20 pages in folio. Ainsi j'aurai bien à faire avant de l'avoir traduit, & tiré copie double [illegible], &c.

Si l'on ne fait pas une réponse satisfaisante à la France, Amsterdam protestera encore.

19e. au matin

L'Amirauté, disoit-on, ne donneroit son Préavis pour une Résolution, que la semaine prochaine; mais les mesures étoient secrettement prises pour en faire passer une ce matin, où l'on promet de belles choses à la France, sans rien changer, en attendant, au Convoi refusé pour les provisions navales. Mr. l'Ambr. en ayant eu le vent, est allé remettre aujourd'hui, de grand matin, au G. P., avant qu'il sortît pour l'Assemblée, une note si énergique, que je ne crois pas qu'on pourra éviter, après cela, de donner une réponse précise, un oui ou un non, qui conservera aux sept provinces le Comerce de la France, ou qui le leur fera perdre.

19e. au soir

Malgré la note de Mr. l'Ambr., le parti Anglois a prévalu dans l'Assemblée, & tous, excepté Amsterdam, ont adopté, à la pluralité, l'avis de l'Amirauté. Là-dessus Amst. a délivré sa Protestation dans laquelle confirmant ses précédentes Protestations, & spécialement celle contre la Résolution du 18 Nov., elle déclare en outre, se tenir non responsable & déchargée de toutes les suites désavanta-

geuses à la rep. que pourra avoir la réponse non satisfactoire qui va être donnée à la France. Notre Ami m'a fait lire ce Protest, qui est court, & aussi modéré quant à la forme, que fort quant à la chose.

22e. Dec.

On m'a laissé prendre copie de la résolution & de la protestation. On m'a assuré de très bonne part, qu'une Lettre du Comte de Welderen est arrivée, par laquelle la Cour de L. n'est pas contente non plus de la résolution prise par [illegible] Etat le 18 Nov. Ainsi, ceux qui ont voulu tant ménager la dite [illegible] bien mal payés de leur complaisance. [illegible] vriront-ils pas les yeux [illegible] n'en sais rien. Ce qui est certain, [illegible] que la Résolution prise par [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ des Etats d'Holla[illegible] 19 de ce mois, n'a pas encore été portée aux Etats-Généraux. L'Assemblée [illegible] Hollande, qui devoit se séparer cette semaine, a été ajournée à Mardi prochain. Les Députés des Villes partiront Jeudi. Vont-ils chercher de nouvelles instructions, pour une autre réponse, que Mr. l'Ambr. de Fce puisse recevoir? Cela se peut. Il n'y a que ceux d'Amst. qui restent ici, parce qu'ils n'ont pas besoin d'ad referendum: — Stat sententia civitatis.

24e.

La Lettre de l'Envoyé C. de Welderen consiste dans le Reglement de la Cour Br. qui lui a été remis par Suffolk, par lequel les Vaisseaux de Roi & Armateurs Br. sont autorisés à saisir tous les Navires neutres portant en France des munitions de guerre terrestre, ou navales, c'est-à-dire, mâts, &c. Ce Reglement est directement contraire à la Résolution du 18 Nov., par laquelle les Etats refusent de laisser mettre en question cet Article, que les Traités leur assûrent.

En attendant que je puisse, Messieurs, vous donner le dénouement de tout cela, je crois devoir vous faire part d'une Lettre singuliere qui m'a été écrite & de ma réponse. L'Ecrivain, Avocat, & frere du Fiscal du Conseil d'Etat, vint en Carosse la laisser lui-même à ma porte avec un paquet & une Carte de visite. Parmi les Pieces de Procès étoit aussi copie d'une Lettre qui vous a été écrite l'année passée, de votre Réponse Messieurs, au sujet d'un Vaisseau Hollandois ~~pris~~ de Rotterdam, pris en mer, conduit & déclaré bonne prise à Charlestown.

Copie

La Haie 4. Xbr. 1778

"M. Etant informé de bonne part, que vous ménagez les intérêts des Américains, & que vous êtes chargé d'une Comission de la part du Congrès auprès des Et. Gen.x, & qu'outre cela vous partagez l'amitié de Mr. Franklin; je prends la liberté de vous communiquer un Mémoire & les pieces y jointes, que je me propose de présenter à Mr. le Gr. Pens.re touchant la Capture d'un de nos Vaisseaux en pleine mer par deux par 2 Corsaires Americains, pour tâcher d'obtenir les représentations nécessaires, afin de pouvoir recouvrer la perte que nous avons faite. Mais avant de faire cette démarche, j'ai voulu, Monsieur vous faire part de nos justes plaintes, dans l'espérance que vous voudrez bien avoir la bonté de les prévenir par votre intercession auprès du Congrès [illegible] votre [illegible] étant persuadé, qu'après la [illegible] de ces Pieces vous serez convaincu [illegible] on nous a fait, & de [illegible] votre demande. — Je me flatte, M. que vous me permettrez la satis[illegible] [illegible] vous rendre mes devoirs Lundi, s'il vous convenoit, à 4 heures après dîner, pour recevoir votre réponse. &c. Signé H. J. d'Oldenbarnevelt nomé Witte Tullingh."

Réponse

La Haie 6. Dec. 1778.

"M. L'estimée vôtre du 4 Dec. me fait un honneur qui ne m'appartient pas. S'il y a quelqu'un en ce pays, chargé d'une Comission du Congrès auprès des Etats Généraux, je l'ignore. Quant à l'amitié de Mr. Franklin pour moi, si, après l'usage que vous vous proposez de faire des Pieces que vous m'avez confiées, le Gouvernement la jugeoit utile à l'affaire que vous protégez, ce sera une raison de plus pour moi de m'en glorifier; & je ferai parvenir ce qui me sera remis & enjoint ~~[illegible]~~ de sa part, là où il le croira à propos, avec tout le zele & la dis[illegible] d'un home, qui se félicite de vivre depuis tant d'années sous sa pr[illegible]on. — Je me ferai un devoir de vous prévenir chez vous, en vous rapportant demain Lundi, à 4 heures après-dîner, les papiers de vos Clients, & de vous assurer de mon empressement à vous rendre tous les services dont je suis capable, &c."

Je fus chez Lui en conséquence; il me dit qu'il étoit lui-même l'un des Interessés dans ce Navire; qu'il y étoit pour 10,000 florins &c. Enfin il me dit Mais Monsieur, Vous avez pourtant été chargé de quelque affaire auprès des Etats; du moins

elle a passé par vos mains; on me l'a assuré positivement. Je répondis: Si cela étoit, je serois bien indiscret de le dire. Mais, Monsieur, copiez en ma Lettre; faites-en l'usage qu'il vous plaira: montrez-là à Mr. le G. R. & à tout autre, qui vous instruiront mieux que moi de ce que vous voulez savoir.

J'ai fait part de tout cela à G. F. qui m'a fort approuvé.

28e. Dec.

J'ai porté cette [illegible] avec moi à Amst. où certaines pet. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ires avec eux sur des entrepri ses qui pourro[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] tiles à l'Amérique. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] necessair[illegible] pour port[illegible] certain point de maturité, avant de [illegible] en [illegible]. Demain je repartirai pour la Haie, d'où je vous [illegible] [illegible] ce qui aura été résolu quant à la réponse à faire à la Cour de France. Je suis avec avec un très grand respect, Messieurs,

Votre très-humble & très-obéissant serviteur Dumas

1778 — 18th Decr

Dear Sir

A Packet arriving this Week directed to the Committee of Correspondence, and containing only a Letter from Berlin for Congress, I took the freedom of opening one directed to our worthy Friend S. Adams in yr Brother A's handwriting, of which I send you a copy so far as it was material to the Public.

Paris July 31st

A Journey to the Courts of Spain & Berlin have satisfied me that the determined System of Europe is to let us struggle through this War, as we can with the warmest Professions of Friendship with the strongest declarations of their being interested in our success and therefore ardently wishing it, nothing can move them from their quietism & caution which are carried to a perfectly ridiculous extreme. Spain is totally occupied with its little Portuguese War, France is governed by timidity in the excess, and the 3 great northern Powers are immersed in Schemes of plundering the Turk & the Pole, and dividing the spoil. In this situation of Europe, notwithstanding the justice of our cause has rendered all men in our favour, it is not wonderful that you are left, like Hercules in his cradle, to strangle the Serpent that

126

is the terrour of Europe.
In this Situation, it is happy for us that the extravagance of the enterprise has already so exhausted the means of our Enemies that, it is certain, this is the last campaign of vigour they can make against us.

When our point is secured by the energy of our own exertions, we shall think it happy that the fears & occupations of the powers of Europe have prevented them from forming treaties with us, when our situation would have given them infinite advantages.

When our distresses are past & our fears subsided, we shall be enabled to see & to follow our interests in the alliances we form; which I do not think would be intirely the case at present"
Besides this public matter of your Brother's letter he adds a Note—"A Mr. Carmichael obtained from me a letter to you under a pretence of his going immediately to America. I have since found him to be a very unworthy person, whom I can by no means recommend to your patronage."
you will see more sentiments of this kind written to Col. Francis. I wish these hints had come before our late election of Mr. C—

[12]

127a

"One of Monticu's Vessels has arrived at Portsmouth with the following articles for the Continental Account
48 Brass 4 Pounders with Carriages compleat
19 9-Inch Mortars
2500 Bombs — 9 Inch
2004 4 Pound Shot
a Large Quantity of intrenching tools
3000 Fusees
1110 Do. for Dragoons
about 18000 lb Gun Powder
6105 lbs Brimstone

Beaumarchais's Secretary Francy is arrived at Portsmouth & is expected here dayly perhaps he will bring letters from the Gentlemen at Paris to our Committee but they cannot be later than Sept. Mr. Geary has one dated Nantes ye 5th of that month, which speaks of the cowardly disposition of the french Court. I do not count this an absolute contradiction of Bingham's letter of Oct. 13th because a Gentleman from America trading at Nantes Sep. 5th might be a Stranger to

127-6

ministerial Measures entered into time enough to reach Mr. B thro' the General of Martinique by Oct. 13.

However, Sir, ~~tho'~~ tho' I attempt to reconcile these accounts so as to make the Story of war stand, yet I am very far from being sanguine in the belief of it. Your Brothers history of the Temper of the several Courts seems by far the most natural of any other which has come to hand.

I expect we shall have an enormous mercantile account from De Francy, I suppose it is the House of Hortalez which your Brother Wm. hints his fears about. — you see how necessary his presence was near Mr. D. — a letter from this same Gentleman to Mr. Morris came open to Mr. Hancock but the letter covering appeared to be private, so that the inclosure was sent on to Mr. M without Congress coming to the Knowledge of the Contents.

The Honble
Arthur Lee Esq

Bordeaux 13 Decr 1778

Sir

By last post I received your Letter for the chairman of the Comee a Sloop belongg. to Alexandria will sail about the 20th by the said Sloop under the special care of the Captain it shall be forwarded —— The many arrivals of late from Boston will make any recital of our Intelligence only repetitions by a Letter I received from Mr Joseph Gridley who came Passenger in the vessel arrived at Lorient, he writes me that being charged with dispatches for Doctr. Franklin he was to sett of the next day for Paris whither the Letters he had were of a Publick Nature or only his private Concerns I know not

Mr Nairac from La Rochelle writes me that ~~the~~ a vessel put in that Port ~~which~~ left Boston the 12 Novr he further adds "il nous apprend de plus que l'Escadre de Byron „ ayant essuié un Coup de temps le Vaisseau le Soumerset de „ 64 avoit eté jetté a la Cote" this being Mons d'Estaing

Suite

will meet with not interruption in the pursuit of his plan. M. Gridley who was with the fleet to the 7th when he parted they were only 20 or 30 leagues to the westward of Halifax and the Fleet were Steering E.N.E should he take the 6 Ships at Halifax and destroy their Arcenals the British Navy must make the best of their way back to Europa neither York nor Rhode Island being suitable to their relief and we know of no provision being made in the West Indies for their reception

The Operations of Messieurs de Montheu Williams. Beaumarchais &c. go briskly forward I find they are supported with the Credit of Mons. Ray de Chaumont his acceptance being in the hands of the agent who transacts their Buisness at this Port from the Idea I had of the Sentiments of some of the Interested to each other I could not give Credit to the information I received of the parties concern'd, but by the above acceptances puts it out of all doubt. the Ships leave this

for the West Indies there discharging their Cargoes are to proceed with Rum &c to No America, its an excelent Speculation if conducted with Economy I ent must be concern'd few private Funds being able to go the lengths that this will require

I am respectfully

Sir

Your very hble Serv

John Bondfield

Very dear great friends & Allies, we do not delay to inform you of the birth of a princess of which the Queen our dear Consort is happily delivered the confidence we have in your friendship leaves no room to doubt of your Sensibility on this event nor of the part you will take in the Satisfaction we feel from this first fruit of the divine blessing on our Marriage, the interest we take in the prosperity of your republic is a surety to you for the pleasure we have in renewing to you the assurances of our esteem & constant regard, we pray God to have our very dear great friends & allies in his holy keeping dated at Versailes the 19th Dec 1778 — your good friend & ally

Louis

to our very dear great friends & allies the president & Members of the general congress of the united States of North America —

De Vergennes

The custom in Holland for laying before the States general of Holland, the letters by which the King notifies them of marriages or births is to send them to the President of the Week who thereupon goes to the Ambassador or Minister of the King & compliments him upon the event which is the subject of the Notification —

(No 249)

Frankfort in Germany.
Decr. 20th: 1778.

You will receive with this my Dear Sir, some papers that will impart inform you of what has passed in Holland relative to the Piratery that has been practised by the British Men of War, armd Vessels &c on the Dutch Trade.

The British partizans headed by the P. of O. & aided by British Guineas had nearly prevail'd to destroy the freedom of the Dutch Commerce & overthrow the rights of the Republick, but the firmness of the Regency & Pensionary of Amsterdam supported by the Body of the Merchants at the head of whom was placed Monsr. Jean De Neufville, has hitherto saved the Republic, from the Evils it was threatend with, & the Patriotic Party seems to gather strength, for on the last question in the General Assembly of the States, two other Cities & three members of the Nobility voted with Amsterdam so that by perseverance it is expected the Patriotic measures will finally prevail; All which will be greatly to our advantage. If Col. T. is at Congress you will of course communicate this to him, if he is not, please to read his Letter & then forward it to him. This being a very uncertain conveyance I can't be very particular. I have wrote frequently to Congress from whom I have not heard of a later date than May; nor do I learn that the Gent. at P. are much better inform'd than me. The English papers tell us of a thousand divisions & distractions in Am.a & even in Congress not a Word of which do I believe tho' Gov.r Johnstone insists that a great deal of his money was received, which was layed out to produce those effects. [illegible]

[illegible]

Tho' there has not been any General Battle in this Country, yet there
has been on the whole a great deal of fighting between the Austrians
& Prussians, nor have they ceased untill the quantity of Snow
that has fallen, seems to have made them a little quiet. Prince
Repnin has arrived at Breslaw in Silesia (where the K. of P. has
fix'd his Winter quarters) as Commissioner from y.d Court of Russia to
meet a Com.r from France as Mediators to make Peace between Austria
& Prussia, however I do not find that the French Com.r is yet named
nor any from Austria for it is understood that the place is not yet
agreed upon — France & Austria naming Augsburg or Nuremburg
while Russia & Prussia fix on Breslaw. In my private opinion
it will be impracticable to bring about Peace this Winter, the K. of
P. has got possession of Austrian Silesia, which he will not easily
relinquish, while Austria will make efforts before she cedes that
valuable part of her Paternal Inheritance. Our affairs of course
in this undecided State of things must remain at a stand, for unless
France makes a point of it on either side, & demands an ackno
:ledgement of American Independence, neither will probably do it for
fear of decidedly throwing G. B. & Hanover into the opposite scale:
Hitherto France keeps aloof in that respect, probably to avoid
being an Active Party in the German War. I cannot learn that G.
B. has been able to engage any fresh troops from this quarter for the
American War, on the Contrary I am assured from all quarters, that she
will not be able to procure near the number of recruits necessary to
compleat the German Corps now in America. You ought to have the
earliest intelligence from P. of what is going on in Eng.d my remote situa
:tion prevents me from writing so often as I sh.d otherwise do. The designs of the
B. Ministry can't be exactly understood, because their plans are changed so
frequently, however I think they are determin'd on essaying another campaign
to recover Am.a & that most of their operations will be of the predatory
kind & ravaging the back Country with the Indians. They may be puzzled
by threaten.g an Invasion of Canada & N. Scotia, being as well as possible
prepar'd for any sudden attempt on the Coast of Virg.a & on Cha.s Town
which from resentm.t Clinton will wish to destroy & by send.g an effec
:tual body against S.t Augustine the Nest of Pirates. Tho' if the
French fleet keeps on the Am.n Coast many of their schemes must as
heretofore prove abortive. I can't help expect.g that dur.g the Winter in the
time of Clinton's weakness, some successful attempt will be made on N. York,
for believe me the best method is to keep the Enemy in perpetual alarm, by conti
:nual attacks. A Court Martial is to be held on Ad.l Keppel on complaint

of Sr. H. Paliser for misconduct in the Engagem.t y.e 27 last July with the french fleet
it is supposed that Paliser will be tryed also. It is supposed as the K. & Minis-
hate Kepp: that he will be sacrificed & that the impotent Pal: being a favorite, will escape, which I wi[sh]
with all my heart may happen, as most likely to create a mutiny in the fleet.
At all events a good deal of hot blood will be created, & I hope all the Whigs will
be taught how dangerous it is to trust their Lives & reputation in the hands of
the present ministry. 'Tis my Duty to mention & you may be assured of the fact
that Ld. North declared publicly in the House of Commons, that if the
Congress had assented to treat on the terms proposed by the British Com.rs
that he w.d not have confirm'd them; after this, what American in his
Sinses can listen one moment to any terms whatsoever proposed by the
present British Ministry unless they are warranted by a plain & po-
-sitive Act of Parliament. This sh.d be publish'd thro' all America & if tis
necessary you may give me for the Author. — Mr. D— ne it seems has
written over that Con: had plans of changing all their appointments in Europe
& that he was coming over in a very lucrative employm.t — I had no doubt
that he & his Coadjutor C. w.d carry on intrigue & trick wherever they were
but my opinion of Con: must be greatly changed from what it is, before I can
believe it will be deluded by them; However I trust you will give me the earli-
-est information if any changes are made or intended.) My family was increa-
-sed last ~~month~~ October with a Son whom I have call'd BRUTUS, your Son
Thom: & Belleview Thom: are Godfathers, he is well & so are
all the rest of us. Your Sons are well & expect Thom: is now writg
to you from Nantes directly to Virginia. When the Congress is fixed
in this Country I intend to be at it, unless our friends sh.d judge it impro-
-per, to try if the pacification of America cannot be br't about at
the same time with the pacification of Germany.

We wish you & Yours all health & happiness & remain most
Sincerely & Affectionately as heretofore. Farewell.

~~No 236.~~
(No 269)

Wm Lee
Dec. 20th 1778

~~No 60~~
No. 236

(No 268) Dec 20 1778

Honourable

Sir.

Captain McNeil having put into this Port, in his Way to Boston, his Cruise being out, I availed myself of the Opportunity, and sent by him all the Letters you put into my Care supposing it important to the Public that the Congress should receive them as soon as possible, I gave him every caution necessary in case of Danger of being taken, — I hope my Conduct herein will meet with your Approbation

Nantes 20th Dec 1778

I am with the most perfect attachment & respect

Honble Sir

Your most Obedt & most Humble Servant

J Williams

As I dont write to my nephew supposing him on his way for Nantes

To the Honourable Benjn Franklin Esqr &c &c &c

J. Williams
to
(No 268) Benj: Franklin
(20 Dec.r 1778.)

His Excellency Benj.a Franklin
Esq.r &c &c &c
at Passy

paris le: 11. 7bre 1778.

je me suis flaté, Monsieur le chevalier, que vous voudriez bien engager Son excellence Monsieur le docteur franklin a donner la legalisation aux ~~quatre~~ six actes de notoriété que j'ai l'honneur de vous remettre cy joints, ainsi qu'il est d'usage de la part de tous messieurs les ambassadeurs qui certifient la réalité existence et verités de la signature des officiers publics des Etats et cours près lesquels ils resident, dans le stile a peu près conforme au modele que je prends la liberté de vous remettre.

comme ces expeditions sont infiniment instantes, et quelles interessent le sort de celles faites par ma compagnie en amérique, je vous supplie, Monsieur le chevalier, de me permettre de compter sur vos bons offices, et amitié pour le plus prompt renvoi de ces pieces, vous observant quil nous suffit de la signature d'un des trois de Messieurs les ministres des treize états unis de l'amerique.

Je suis, avec respect, Monsieur le chevalier, Votre très humble, et tres obeissant serviteur.

Dumon

Directeur Général des fermes du roy du département de paris, hotel de longueville rue St. thomas du louvre.

Reponse

A mon retour Monsieur hier au soir de Versailles, j'ai trouvé la Lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'ecrire.

Je dois vous prevenir que nous sommes trois Plenipotentiaires ici, et que nous nous sommes accoutumés de signer des Certificats tous les trois. Si vous voulez bien faire ajouter a chaque piece le Certificat, puisque nous n'ecrivons pas le françois trop bien, vous nous trouverez ensemble a Passi demain midi. Si vous ne pouvez pas venir en personne vous ferez bien de prier l'un des Messieurs

les abbés de y venir pour as-
surer mes Collegues que ces
messieurs sont ce que nous
devons certifier qu'ils sont
alors nous serons en regle

J'ai l'honneur d'etre
&c

a Chaillot le 22. Xbre 1778

a M. Monsieur Vernon

[redacted]

Mrs / Lee

Lee's writing

My dear Bro.

Phil.a Decr 22d 1778
(~~No 269~~) (No 270)

Publications still continue in abundance to blacken the Lees & make Deane the greatest man in the World. the cry is in their favor, no one has dared to enter the lists with them, but common sense, who tho he has said a great deal of truth, & much to the purpose, was as far as I can understand very little regarded, it having been artfully put about, that he was hired & the poor fellow got a beating from an Officer, it is said for having wrote the piece. He unfortunately made some mistakes, which are taken notice of by his Answerer Plain Truth, & throws a discredit upon the rest. It is really a shame, that when so many things can be alledged against this man, that the public should be so abused, because Congress will not go thro' the business. they have done nothing yet, in the mean time he continues to insult them. After having long pestered the Congress by Letters to hear him, in justification of himself, never hinting that he had any discovery to make, urging the necessity he was under of going immediatly to France. And after complaining to the

(No 269) (No 270)

publick that he was obliged to communicate his discoveries to them, because Congress woud not hear him, as if he coud not have given his information to Congress in a Letter, as well as to the people. After all this Congress on the 8 inst. directed him to put in writing the whole of his transactions & discoveries while in Europe & told him that if in the mean time, he had any thing of immediate consequence to communicate, they woud hear him the next evening. He answerd that as he coud in two or three days put every thing in writing he did not desire to be heard. since which we have not heard one word from him in Congress. And yet no notice is taken of him. in short the Party are determined to support him in everything, & to contradict the old opinion, that it is impossible to wash the blackamore white. Finance is yet very backward. God knows what will become of us_ Letters from Rhode Island say Byrons ~~fleet is~~ seamen are very sickly, which prevents his fleet from moving. This is all our news.

when you come up I woud advise you to cross at Kent Island, the road by Baltimore is very bad. Love to your fireside & all friends.

Francis Lightfoot Lee

Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

Bilbao 23d Decr 1778

Dear sir

According to what I had the pleasure to write you last from Madrid have now to communicate you my arrivall here, where I hope to recover my health in a little time altho' it is at present very yndifferent.

Nothing apears from America, but hope it will soon, as we expectt some vessells from that quarter, I wish may bring us some favourable news, In the mean time have to repeatt what wrote you from Madrid that should any thing ocurr you relative to private affairs with our friends at said Court you must write me under my particular name having agreed upon this point before I sett out from thence, as likewise that I should transactt here the same as if I was there.

My last night's letters from the Graine a fish prize was carried into that port by an american Privateer commanded by Capt. Newman, which being what offers, beg leave to wish to you & yours on the other side of the watter

all manner of success during the aproching & many succeeding years to comand

Dear Sir

Your afs.d Fr.d & obt. Servt.

James Gardoqui

Arthur Lee Esq.r —— Bilbao the 23 Dec.r [illegible]

Honoured Sir

We had the pleasing Satisfaction of Saluting you[illegible] on the 28th of Octover last to which not haveing [illegible] the honour of a Repply: The present agreable to what Communi[illegible] on therein will serve to Informe you that our mutuall frein[illegible] M.r John Emery haveing freighted us according to promise his Brigantine The North Starr Francis Dawson Master have shipt on her on the old plan Seven Cables 100 Coiles of Cordage Seven large Cases & Three Hundred Therty Seven Balles Merchandize Contents whereof will be Specifyd at foott & as those Articles compleatt wholy the directions given us by The Donors we very cordially wish that she may have the luck of reaching safely any port of the Therteen Unitted American Stattes where as they are by us consigned To any Continentall Agent doubt not that he will follow therewith what ever Instructions he may receive from the worthy & Honourable Corrporation of Congress ——

The Brigg [illegible] the 19th Instant & is ready to sail with the first fair wind & as have prevailed on Cap.tn Nicholas Bartlett Jun.r of the Privateer the America of 4 Guns to convoy her as farr as Cape Finis Terre, we flatter ourselves that she will gett clear of our Coast.

We have likewise to Informe you that haveing allready a very large parcell of Blanketts In whare House ready & paid for Towards the order for the 30,000 you was pleased to give have also shipt on the above Brigg & have filled her up with 95 Balles containing 2470 fine large Palencia Blanketts as you will see by the within Invoice & bill of Loading ammounting to Reals 74670 & 11 mrs of Vellon which request the favour of your ordering it to be Examined & if free from Errors to place the same to our Creditt as have accordingly debitted you the like Sum. ——

One half of the freight agread to be paid M.r Emery in Europe ammounting to Livers 19905 Tournois we have agreable to Capitulation delivered him our bills for that Sum drawn this day at 90 days datte on your Banker M.r

Legrand of Paris of Cource must beg the favour of your directting said Gentleman to honour. & discharge them at maturity a Governo. —

Should we find any Purchaser for any more draughts by Post on Paris we will also take the liberty of valuing a further Sum on said Mr Legrand for the ammount of what we have disbursed on Account of your order for the Therty Thousand Blanketts, a very large parcell thereof being actually ready packt up, depend on their being shipt by the very first opportunity that presents itself —

We respectfully Salutte you & remmain

Honoured Sir

your mt affe ob hble Servts

Joseph Gardoqui & sons

Goods shipt ~~on the old plan~~ in the North Starr Capt. Francis Tewson markt C.

7 Cables from 6½ to 18½ Inches 120 Fathom weighing 22623 lb

100 Coilles Cordage diferent dimmentions wey

No. 1 a 7.	7 large cases	with 5215.	pair fine Strong Shoes —
8 to 21.	14 Balles	84	pieces fine Duck —
22 to 42.	21. do	14687½	vares linnen for Shirtting —
43 to 61.	19. do	116.	pieces fine Duck —
62 to 65.	4. do	2227.	pair fine Strong Stockings —
66 to 344.	279. do	7038.	fine large Palencia Blankets

Bills drawn this day on Mr Legrand by order of the Hble A. Lee on Account of the half freight of the Brigg the North Starr —

7000.
6905. } at 90 days datte —
6000.

19905. Livers Tournois —

23 Dec 78

Le Comte de Vergennes a l'honneur de prevenir Monsieur Lee qu'il a reçu la Brochure qu'il a bien voulu lui envoyer. Il le prie d'en recevoir ses remerciemens

a Vlles le 23 Xbre 1778

1. Charge.

That Mr. A Lee injured and embarrassed the affairs of these United States by manifesting a contempt for the French nation and by the rude disgusting manner in which he constantly spoke of them. —

Evidence. Mr Deane's Narrative. p. 80. 101. Mr Carmichael

2. Charge. That Mr. A Lee is of a captious, suspicious & jealous temper productive of quarrels, difficulties and embarrassments in his concerns and transactions with others. —

Evidence. Deane's Narrative page 63. 64. 65. 20. 15. 16. 84. 117. & 118 — Hodge's Letter to Commissioners 10th July 1778. Mr Holker, Mr Carmichael — Williams's Letter to Mr Deane 22d July 1778 — Letter from Doctr. Franklin Do. from Do. to Mr Debure 7th April 1778 — Mr Deane's publication 5th Decr. 1778 — Mr Deane's papers No. 2. to page 6 — letter from Mr Deane Novr. 19th 1778 — Williams's letter to Congress 10th Septr. 1778 page 3. —

3 Charge. That Mr. A Lee on his arrival at the Court of Berlin left his public papers in such insecurity that the british Envoy got possession of them. —

Evidence. Deane's Narrative 75 - 66. Deane's publication 5th Decr. 1778. —

4. Charge. That Mr. A Lee being directed by Commissioners to go to Madrid communicated his journey to many, that the Court of Spain got information of it and were obliged to stop him at Burgos to prevent giving umbrage to the british Court

Evidence Mr Deane's Narrative p. 62.

5th Charge That Mr. A Lee disgusted the french Court and lost its confidence. —

Evidence Deane's Narrv. p. 87. — / 6th

6th Charge.

That Mr. A. Lee in Violation of his faith pledged in common with the Commissioners to Monsr. Gerard Plenipotentiary of France to keep secret the concluding & signing the treaties with his most Christian Majesty im=mediately divulged the same to some person in great Britain.

Evidence. Deanes Narrative page. 81. 52. 83 - Deanes Publications 5th Decr. 1778 —

7th Charge.

That the disposition of Mr. A. Lee is such as leads him to littlenesses extremely disgust=ing to a gallant and polite people and prejudicial to the character of the Country he represents.

Evidence. Mr. Deanes Narrative p. 102. 103 - Mr. Carmichael.

Rue pot de fer le 24 Xbre 1778

Je n'ay point encore Monsieur vu Mr D'Ansan depuis mon retour de Bretagne. ayez la bonté de me laisser le temps de le trouver chez lui et je ferai votre commission le mieux qu'il me sera possible.

Je juge que ce sont des raisons de santé qui engagent mad. Izard a remettre au printemps a aller voir le Pavillon de mr le pce de condé j'en suis tres faché. Je vous prie de vouloir bien l'en assurer et que je serai a ses ordres alors comme a present.

vous connoissez Monsieur les sentiments avec lesquels j'ay l'h. d'etre votre tres humble et tres obeissant serviteur Jarspelo

world to harmony, and that emoluments and honours were the rewards of our labour. If you have had any dream of this sort, tell me so, and I will meet thee at Philipi, be that where it may.

These are times my friend, when much may be expected, because much may be done. Do not treat this matter lightly. Tell me only that I may come with safety, that you wish to see me, and that notwithstanding all you may have heard, you believe me when I ~~swear~~ ~~~~ swear by our ancient friendship, that I am

Semper Eadem

Pray write immediately and direct for Miss Baker, Brentford-butts, Meddlesex

Xtmas day — 78.

"Once more (as Ranger says) safe to the Temple! I hate all your bloody minded rogues on both sides the question. Peace, everlasting peace, is my hobbyhorse, and my pride illam coluisse artem quæ huma-num genus conservare docet. I dreamt last night, that you and I met somewhere on the continent of Europe: whether it was at Paris, at Spa, at Bruxels, or at Aix la Chapel I am not certain. I thought I had ten thousand things to communicate; that we entered deeply into several important disquisitions; that every obstacle vanished before us; that we restored the jarring

Peace! Cannot be made, but by Ambassadors, appointed by France England, and the United States. — My Demand for my Country, is Sovereignty. — What the Demands of France England may be they know, I dont.

Berkenhout

Ang.

A Monsieur
Mons.r Johnstone
Garçon Tailleur
chez Mon.r Hollville
vis-a-vis les Samaritani
Pont Neuf a Paris

Post Pd
to London

25

d
Tell
to, tha

Received at Chaillot the 2d day Jany 1779

Attest W Lord Jun

(No 2[illegible]) (No 271)

My dear Bro:r Phil:a Dec.r 25.th 1778

The day on which my last letter was wrote, Mr. Deane produced to Congress his written narrative of his transactions & accusations. the first the most pompous bloated thing that ever was on paper. the only charges against Doct.r Lee are that he is suspicious, jealous, affrontive to every body he has any business with, & very disgusting to the whole French nation, by his hatred for them, which he discovers by all his words & actions. Mr. W. Lee is mean, & goes shares with the agents he appointed. the whole is most grossly abusive of both of them. the Party sucked it in, as Nectar & Ambrosia; & say he has acquitted himself most honorably. they whisper about, that as they are very moderate, & would not injure any body unheard, they think the best way is to recall them that they may justify themselves.

this in fact, under the appearance of moderation, is the
thing they are working for. they have of their Party
ready immediatly to fill all the places: & then every
thing being in their own hands; we shall have fine
work, with the trade which the Continent must carry
on for our large advances in Europe: Altho Deane
had two Colliages, the word We; is never used in his
Narrative; I did every thing. I, procured all the sup-
-plies, brot about the Alliance; procured D'Estaings fleet
conducted them to America: discoverd the designs of the
Enemy & baffled them. in short, I have establishd the
Liberty & independance of America; whose safety &
happiness now depends upon my vigilance. You are
sufficiently acquainted with human nature, to
know that such magnificent Ideas, incul-
-cated in the most positive style, repeated a thou
times by many Trumpeters, & supported by a Courtly
Letter from Count Vergennes; & the great Dr Franklin
will have great weight with many. the old ~~a~~ Whigs a
something benumbed, at the apparent greatness of the
Party. I shall not be surprised at their success, for means

& wickedness increase daily. If our brothers are not disgraced now, I am sure they will be e'er long, for they will allways stand in the way of bad men, & no villainy will be left unpracticed to ruin them. I believe they mean to push for a speedy decision in favor of Deane. Finance has not been mentioned since my last. no News—

Yrs affly

F. L. Lee

I forgot to mention, that I am informed Deane has sent a great many of the Papers containing his Address to Virginia to be circulated there by you can guess whome. —

Mrs Lee sends her Love to Col. Lee & all at Chantilly and Stratford

F. L. Lee

No. 181

~~No. 18.~~

Fran L. Lee
Dec. 25th 1778

(~~No. 181.~~)
(~~No. 27~~) (No. 271)

25 Decr.
1778 F. L. L. to
R. H. L. about
Deane & his wicked
party —

To
Richard Henry Lee Esquire
Chantilly
Westmoreland
Virginia

By a servant of
Capt. Saunders

-plices, tra
conclu
be

Count Vergennes, & the great Dr. Fran
with [illegible] great weight with many. the [illegible]
something bewildered at the apparent [illegible]
Party. I shall not be surprised at their success for [illegible]

Copy (No 270)

Passy Decr 28th 1778

This is to certify, that I this day examined, with the Honble Doctr Benjamin Franklin, the trunk delivered to him by my Brother, the Honble William Lee & said to contain the public & private papers of the late Thomas Morris Esqr commercial Agent; & that the Seals & strings upon the said trunk were entire.

Arthur Lee

The said Trunk was plumbd.

A. Lee

The same Day received the Keys of the honble Arthur Lee Esqr by me

B Franklin

(No 136.)

A. Lees Certificate

(28 Decr 1778.)

(No 270)

No 136

Sir

tho' I expect the honour of dining with you friday next, I think proper to inform you that Mr D'Aubigne will be ready to Receive you this Very day fortnight at Eleven o'clock in the morning. If you please to call upon me a hour or a little after half an hour after ~~three~~ ten I will have the honour to accompany you thither. mean while

Believe Me Sir with the most sincere Attachment

Sir

your most humble &
obedient Servant Carss

rue pot de fer Tuesday
the 29th of december
1778

On the contrary they have in the same Commission ordered the Captains to ~~carry their Prizes into the Ports of neutral Nations, and submit them to~~ submit their Prizes carried into the Ports of neutral Nations, to the Judgment of the Courts of Admiralty of such Nations. And it is earnestly desired that ~~such~~ those Courts might be permitted to take Cognizance at least of Reclamations made by the Subjects of their own Nation, as the Americans relying with full Confidence on their Justice.

(No. 271)

Extract from Baron Holtzendorff's Memoire to Dr. Franklin dated Decr. 30th 1778.

Those are the cheifest facts concern.g Baron Holtzendorff's retiring from the service of the United States; to which he thinks proper to add, that he has several reasons to conclude — that it is only the fault of the Honble James Lovell Esqr. president of the Committee of foreign applications, when Congress's late resolution from the 9th of March 1778. has not been put in execution; for this Gentleman has always professed openly a general disliking the foreign & particularly the french Officers, betwixt whom are to be excepted those who favord his passion against Mr. Du Coudray. The truth of what Baron Holtzendorff advances here may easily be judged by the following anecdote

When Baron Holtzendorff arrived at Philadelphia in 1777, President Hancock addressed him to Mr Lovell in order that he could make his report, to Congress about his contract with Silas Deane Esqr. when the Baron presented that Contract to Mr Lovell his passion could not help carrying him as far as to tell to the Baron that he wished the Devil might have drowned a thousand times Mr Deane before his reaching France, because he had sent so many french Officers. that if it should depend only from himself, Mr Lovell, a large vessel should immediately be armed, should the amount of the expence of this armement be several hundred thousand pounds, & all the french Officers be required to return to France — that he esteemed much more the most ignorant ~~french~~ ~~off~~ american Officer, who had fought since the beginning of this war, than the most

skilfull foreign Officers whatsoever.

Upon which Baron Holzendorff replied with his moderate character, that he begs only the Honble. Jam.s Lovell Esq. to present his Contract to Congress, & to let him know their answer whatsoever. — The Baron dares advance that he is persuaded Mr. Lovell would never deny the truth of that aforesaid fact — he adds still that there are very few french Officers who have not proved Mr. Lovell's sentiment.

(No 271)

Extract from Baron Holzendorf's Memoir to Dr Franklin dated (30 Decr 1778.) (No 91.)

Madame adanson à l'honneur d'envoier à Monsieur Lée les vers en question. il y à aumoins une quinzaine qu'ils sont faits. Mme adanson est fort aise de la rencontre qu'elle a faite, Elle compte toujours dans un mois pouvoir aller prier Monsieur Lée de lui faire l'amitié de venir diner chés Elle cet hiver ou elle sera enchantée de le recevoir. Bien le bon jour de la part de Mr adanson ce dimanche 9h matin

Translation

Madam Adanson has the honor of sending Mr Lee the verses She mentioned. There have been at least fifteen other pieces made. Mr Adanson is willing to acknowledge her own. She hopes in a month to come and ask Mr Lee to do her the favor of dining with her this winter when She shall be delighted [illegible] him. Mr Adanson wishes him a goo[illegible]

Sunday Morn[illegible]
morning

Dec 78 ?

Copie d'une Lettre écrite par le Commerce de la Rochelle à M. de Sartine.

Monseigneur,

Le Commerce Maritime accablé de pertes qu'il n'a cessé de faire depuis l'instant que la Cour de Londres a donné des Lettres de Marque contre votre pavillon, croyoit n'en n'avoir plus à redouter que de légères, il devoit l'esperer, Monseigneur, sur l'assurance de Convois de Terre en terre que vous lui avez solemnellement donné par votre dépêche du 10 8.bre dernier.

Au moment où il compte éprouver les effets de la confiance qu'il avoit prise dans vos promesses, il apprend, Monseigneur, qu'après un embargo de 4 mois, deux de ses flotes au nombre de près de 100 Voiles sont sorties du Cap et du Port au Prince dans les premiers jours de Janvier, escortées seulement jusqu'au débouquement, par deux frégates du Roi, qui sont rentrées dans la Colonie en se séparant d'un Convoi aussi riche et aussi interessant.

La Consternation, que cette nouvelle jette dans toutes les places Maritimes, vous annonçant déja, Monseigneur, le sort de ces flotes; il livre à l'ennemi avec 4000 Matelots nos

fortunes, qu'on n'eût jamais dû regarder comme étrangères à la prospérité de l'Etat.

Nous vous Supplions, Monseigneur; de vouloir encore conserver au Commerce les Navires qui plus lents à la marche se trouvent plus tard aux atterages de nos Ports, en faisant Sortir de Brest, et de Rochefort les Vaisseaux et frégates qui seront prêts. C'est le dernier vœu du Commerce, ses malheurs trop constans ne lui permettront plus d'en former d'autres.

(No 197)

Dans la lettre que M. Deane a trouvé bon d'addresser au public en Amerique laquelle a été traduite dans le Courier de l'Europe, entre mille delations contre moi, toutes à fait fausses il y a deux qui me paroient demander des eclaircissemens de ma part, a ceux dans ce pays ci dont l'opinion et l'estime me sont chéres.

Ces deux delations sont - 1º que j'ai donné avis en Angleterre, par lettre, laquelle lettre a été vue par le Correspondent d'une personne ici, que le Traité etoit signé; & 2d que j'etois si fort attaché aux interêts de l'Angleterre, & ennemie de la France, qu'a peine pouvoient ils me persuader de signer les Traités.

La premiére delation etoit conçue dans des termes si générales, qu'il m'etoit impossible de chercher ici la personne dont le Correspondent a Londres a pretendu d'avoir vu une telle Lettre de ma part. Mais depuis peu, une Lettre de M. Deane a son Correspondent a Paris interceptée et inserée dans la Gazette de Londres, a marquée le Sieur Petrie, Anglois, demeurant ici pour donner des avis au joueurs dans les fonds d'Angleterre, comme celui qui a montré a M. Deane la lettre en question de son Correspondent a Londres. En consequence j'ecrivis au Sieur Petrie, pour lui demander s'il etoit vrai, qu'il a autorisé une telle delation contre moi, & qui etoit son Correspondent à Londres, qui a pretendu d'avoir vu une telle Lettre de ma part. Le Sieur Petrie m'a repondu que "jamais il n'a autorisé cette delation contre moi, mais au contraire qu'il a dit à M. Deane qu'une autre etoit soupçonné d'avoir ecrit la Lettre à Londres dont il etoit question dans la lettre qu'il a montré a M. Deane".

Ainsi la premiére delation est non seulement fausse mais aussi malicieuse de la part de M. Deane.

En reponse au seconde je donne ici des Extraits de mes Lettres, tant publiques que particuliéres, par lesquelles on peut juger, si celui-ci est moins fausse et moins malicieuse

Extrait d'une Lettre de l'Honble Arthur Lee à l'Honble R. H. Lee Membre du Congrès — a Paris 4 Octr. 1777

"Je joins la copie d'un act recent de la part de la Cour ici, qui paroit avec d'autres, peu favorables a notre cause. Leur raison est ~~et~~ que le Capitaine Cunningham avoit été armé en course, dans leurs ports, & qu'il etoit actuellement en course dans la Manche, contraire a leurs traités a ce qu'ils avoient desiré de nous, & que nous avons aussi souvent promis d'observer. Tout cela est vrai et c'etoit fait par M. Deane sans nous consulter.

C'est

C'est pourquoi il l'a trouvé necessaire d'ecrire un apologie a M. Morris qui, a ce que j'entends, doit le montrer au particuliers; au même temps il paroit desirer de nous faire prendre de mauvais humeur contre la Cour pour les violences forcées par notre conduit insoutenable. Tout ce que je puis dire est, que'il sera de leurs faire beaucoup d'injustice de juges de leurs dispositions vis a vis de nous, par des actes prises, comme ils nous ont assurés, par necessité et desquelles notre conducte a été la cause."

à L'Honble R. H. Lee Membre du Congrès

a Paris 29 Novr. 1777

"Ce Monsieur est de très mauvaise humeur contre la Cour de Versailles, & il a taché de nous faire parler de même. Mais notre Collègue & moi nous pensons tout autrement, et nous sommes persuadés que la Cour a été forcée a touts ces acts durs par de très mauvaise conduite de notre part. Surtout par l'affaire du Cunningham à Dunkerque. Du detail de cette affaire je n'ai pas été instruit jusqu'ici. Il a si peu de prudence qu'il se vante d'avoir fait cela pour faire eclater la guerre. Il n'etoit pas legérement criminel, de l'entreprendre sans nous consulter si le propos etoit sage & les moyens convénables. Il paroit lui même en être convaincu, & il veut se proteger sous un mécontentement générale. Rien ne peut être plus injurieux a nos amis ici. Car quoique ils ne font pas tout ce que nous souhaitons, certainement ils font plus qu'aucuns autres; & il sera de la folie & de l'ingratitude de les payer par de la mauvaise humeur et la mauvaise volonté.

Ils nous ont dit au commencement clairement & franchement, la ligne a laquelle ils ont du se borner, & ils nous ont souvent priés de ne pas passer cette ligne, pour ne les point commettre. Ell a été passé par ce Monsieur & ses agens avec des circonstances pleines de mauvaise foi et avec l'idée ridicule de les forcer par ces moyens, de declarer la guerre. Les consequences ont tombés sur nos propres têtes, & nous ne pouvons pas en aucune manière nous plaindre d'eux."

A L'Honble Samuel Adams Membre du Congrès (très ami)

Paris 10 Decr. 1777

Le dernier rayon de la gloire Britannique, paroit

parroit sur le point de disparoitre, & le Soleil de l'Amerique semble sortir des nuës qui l'avoient obscurcie, en pleine gloire. Sa Majesté très Chrétienne nous a assurée dans des termes les plus clairs qu'il concluera un traité avec nous quand un Courier sera de retour d'Espagne & qu'il maintiendra notre Independance par voie des armes si cela devenoit nécessaire. La seule condition qu'il demande de notre part, est que nous ne renoncerons jamais à notre Independance; condition à laquelle je me flatte nous n'aurons pas des objections insurmontables. Je ne vois aucune raison de doutes de la bonne foi de cette assurance & sa veritable sagesse est manifeste.

Il nous disent que leur objet est de nous attacher à eux autant que les liaisons des hommes pourront durer; & il est certain que leurs principes sont sagement calculés a cet fin.

Je suis persuadé que vous ne laissez tomber un seul larme sur le tombeau de la G. Bretagne. Ce peuple pervers & déchu, semble être enfin sensible à la honte & a la ruine qui les attende, cependant je doute qu'ils ont assez de force pour se venger du Tyrant qui est la cause de touts leurs maux."

a l'Honble R. H. Lee Membre de Congrès

Paris le 19 Decr. 1777

"Vous verrez par les depeches ci joints, combien près nous touchons au moment de conclure ce que doit decider la question, que divise la G. Bretagne et les Etats Unis & la decider pour toujours. Aucune raison ne me fait douter de la sincerité des promesses que l'on nous fait ici, j'en ai plusieurs qui me portent a en admirer l'extrême prudence."

a l'Honble Richard Henry Lee Membre du Congrès

Paris le 24 Janvr. 1778

"Notre dernier objet ici est on ne peut pas plus avancé, j'espère vous annoncer incessament la conclusion. La guerre devient de jour en jour plus certaine, et je vous assure, que l'on est en ce pays ci très bien preparé à la faire".

a L'Hon.ble R. Henry Lee Membre du Congrès

Paris le 5e fev.r 1778

"Le retard de nos depêches me procure l'avantage d'a:
:jouter celle-ci a ma précédente; et de vous assurer, que l'af:
:faire en question a été conduite avec toute la déligence
imaginable, & que suivante toutes les apparences vous en
apprendrez l'heureux événement par ma premiere lettre."

a l'Hon.ble F. L. Lee Membre du Congrès

Paris le 9e fev.r 1778

"Je vous felicite de tout mon cœur des traités que le
Congrès recevra par la Frégate qui porte la presente. Sui:
:vante l'apparence actuelle des choses l'événement qui doit
amener la conclusion du second traité, aura lieu avant
que celui-ci ne vous soit parvenu".

a l'Hon.ble Samuel Adams Membre du Congrès

Paris le 17 fev.r 1778—

"Permettez mon cher ami que je vous felicite sur l'heu:
:reux succès de tous nos travaux, en joignant a la présente
les traités par lesquels la Liberté, la Souveraineté et l'In:
:dependance sont assurés aux Etats Unis. J'ai cru qu'il étoit
de toute necessité d'insister sur l'insertion du mot Souve:
:raineté, afin qu'il ne puisse naitre a l'avenir, aucune dif:
:ficulté sur ce point, comme il en avoit existée autrefois
et pendant longtemps, a l'egard des Provinces Unies et les
Cantons Suisses. Je puis vous assurer que la guerre est
decidée ici; & que la situation actuelle des choses ne
permet pas qu'elle soit encore longtemps a eclater."

a Le President du Committée des affaires etrangéres

Paris le 28 fev.r 1778

"Vous recevrez par nos depêches générales les Bills
qui se passent actuellement au Parlement de la G. Bretagne
pour la nomination des Commissaires a l'effet de negocier,
"avec leurs sujets abusés, & pour nous declarer de quelle

manière

-nière ils auront la bonté d'exercer à l'avenir leur droit de nous taxer" Ce seroit rendre peu de justice à leurs Bills que d'entreprendre de les commenter. Ils parlent pour eux mêmes, et assez haut. Mais le Ministre d'Angleterre fait courir le bruit que l'on a expédié un demi million de Guinées pour applanir les difficultés, et disposer les esprits a l'acceptation de leurs propositions: je tiens aussi de très bonne part qu'ils ont assurés M. le C. de Maurepas, qu'ils pouvoient compter sur la plus grande partie des Membres du Congrès. C'est par ces artifices méprisables, qu'ils s'efforcent de couvrir leur turpitude, et de deffendre une cause insoutenable. La France nous a rendu des services signalés; nous avons reçu de l'Angleterre des injures atroces; La France offre de garantir notre Souveraineté et une liberté dans le Commerce; La G. Brétagne consent à recevoir notre soumission et a monopoliser notre Commerce; La France demande que nous soyons Independans; et la G. Bretagne que nous soyons tributaires. Je ne comprend pas, comment il peut exister des ames assez basses, ou des Esprits assez dérangés pour balancer dans une semblable alternative."

A l'Honble S. Adams Membre du Congrès

Paris le 1^r Mars 1778

"J'attendois par les ordinaires derniers quelques nouvelles d'Angleterre, et les actes pour negocier avec nous. A juger de ces actes par les Billes, ils seront une preuve eternelle de la foiblesse et de la folie de nos ennemies. Je puis assurer que leurs Commissaires reviendront comme ils seront allés, s'ils ne sont munis de pouvoirs, et s'ils ne reconnoissent, claire-ment et absolument la Souveraineté et l'Independance de l'Amerique comme étant un préliminaire indispensable."

A Son Excellence Henry Laurence President du Congrès

Paris le 19 Mars 1778

Nous serons presentés demain au Roi de France, et l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre quitte cette Cour sans prendre congé. La guerre est inévitable. Tous ces mouvemens sont les suites du traité d'alliance et de Commerce que nous avons conclue avec la Cour de France, et qui a été annoncé dans les formes a celle de Londres. Il doit en resulter que notre

pays

pays sera necessairement allégé du poid le plus considérable de la guerre. Je vous en felicite donc bien sincèrement. Une année ou deux, a mon avis, obligeront la Grande Brétagne à souscrire à toutes les conditions qu'il plaira a nos alliés de leur proposer.

A son Excellence Henry Laurens President du Congrès

Paris le 4 Avril 1778

"J'espère que Monr. Gerard conduira sa negociation conformement aux dispositions de cette Cour et de ses Ministres; lesquelles me paroissent avoir pour base, la bonne foi et la generosité."

A son Excellence Govr. Henry de Virginie

Paris le 7 May 1778

"L'etat de la G. Brétagne la mis hors de pouvoir d'executer ses menaces contre la France, par rapot au traité qu'elle a conclue avec nous. Avantque la presente vous soit rémise une flotte française sous les ordres du C. D'Estaing, leur meilleur Amiral, sera arrivée à votre secours: En consequence les Ennemis seront probablement bloqués a leur tour, car la flotte qu'ils avoient equippée sous l'Amiral Byron (a) pour renforcer Ld. Howe, est arretée et tout le monde croit qu'elle ne fera par voile. Cela vient de l'apprehension qu'ils ont pour leurs foyers. S'ils ne se soutient pas dans leurs marine, leur superiorité sur vous, je crois que nous aurons bientot le plaisir de les voir entièrement chaßés de l'Amerique. La continuation de ce courage et de cette vigeur que ont été jusqu'a présent l'ame de vos affaires accomplira, sans doute, bientôt nos plus ardents disirs; et nous aßurera, la paix, la liberté, et la sureté.

(a) Après sa premiere sortie la flotte de Byron est entrée a Plymouth ou elle a restée dix jours sans aucune apparence de vouloir suive sa première destination.

A son Excellence Govr. Henry de Virginie

Paris le 15 Juin 1778

Comme il paroit que nos Ennemis sont dans l'impossibilité

possibilité

:possibilité de renforcer leur Marine contre vous, & que la flotte du C. D'Estaing est plus forte; il est a esperer que vos côtes seront purgées incessament de tous leurs vaiss:seaux qui en seront chassés. Ils seront egallement hors d'etat de se venger de nos alliés ici, et ils seront indu:bitablement, bientot, forcés de rapeller toutes leurs forces pour leur propre defence. La diminution de leur Commerce, la detresse de leur peuple, la foiblesse & la mechanceté de leurs Conseils, & la rapacité de leurs Officiers annoncent la chute inevitable de leur domi:nation, et la ruine entière de leurs affaires."

(No 197)

A. Lee
to
R. H. Lee
(4 Oct. 1777.)

(~~No 164~~)
Defence of Charges made by Deane in his Address to the Amn. Public

=

Same
to
Same
(29 Nov. 1777)

=

Same
to
Same
(19th Decr. 1777.)

Same
to
Sam: Adams
(10 Decr. 1777.)

=

Same
to
Same
(5 Feb 1778.)

~~No 174~~

~~No 176~~

1778

Same
to
F. L. Lee
9 Feb 1778

=

Same
to
~~Sam. Adams~~
(17 Feb: 1778.)

=

Same
to
The Pres.t of Comee. F. Affairs
(28 Feb 1778.)

=

Same
to
Sam: Adams
(1 March 1778.)

=

Same
to
H.y Laurens Pres.t &c
(19 Mar.h 1778.)

=

Same to Same
4 Apl. 1778

Same to P. Henry Govr. &c
7 May, 1778

Same to Same
(15 June 1778.)

=

No. 5 (No. 185) (1778?)

Some time in March last Mr. Samuel Wharton informd me by Letter that he feared his Brother Joseph Wharton (who had lost near £10000 Sterling by the Bancruptcy of the house of Richard Ford & Co.) was disposed to endeavor to repair his Losses by insurances on Political events, & that Mr. Thornton was as he suspected encouraging & misleading him into that kind of speculation—

A few weeks afterwards Mr. Austin informd me that Mr. Thornton had shewn him a note of hand for £500 Sterling payable by Mr. Jos. Wharton to Mr. Thornton on Condition that war should be declared before a certain day in April; this note I understood to have been obtained by Mr. Thornton from Mr. Wharton as a consideration for some intelligence which the former had sold to the latter; & I concluded that Mr. Wharton in order to have enabled himself to pay the sum of £500 in case of war must have given considerable premiums upon the ground of Mr. Thornton's supposed valuable intelligence, ~~[struck out]~~

About this time Mr. Jos. Wharton intimated to me in a Letter & under injunctions of secrecy that he had found a

a most valuable channel of intelligence, & as a proof of it mentiond that among other important secrets he knew that a certain power had engaged "to declare war at farthest before the 1st of May— Soon after this a Letter sent me from Dr Franklins with several others that were for me & having hastily opened it without attending to the fictitious name it was addressed to, I found it to be a Letter from Mr Jo— Wharton severely reproaching Mr Thornton for having cruelly led into heavy Losses by fallacious intelligence— Mr Thornton the next day sent for this Letter, describing the address & I sent it with an excuse for having mistakenly opened it. At the same time from a motive of humanity wrote a Letter to Mr Joseph Wharton importing that tho I considered Mr Thornton as a well meaning man, I thought him an "indiscreet Chatterer," & so little informd of the private intentions, or transactions of men in power either here or any where else, that in my opinion it was not prudent in any body to risk money on his intelligence, nor honorable in him to take money for giving it— in answer

to this

Letter Mr Wharton wrote me on the 20th of April as follows

"In regard to Thornton I agree with you that he is a very indiscreet Chatterer, & I have often wondered such a man was entrusted with such State Papers, & so I do still. indeed it is really wonderful! that such copies of such papers should be taken & carried from Paris to London, from London to Portsmouth &c &c surely no good can come of this — And if he would shew them to me, a stranger to him, would he be less communicative to others? My Lord North I should think would have given £20,000 for them — On the other hand if they were not real & official papers what Character does the man deserve who would use honorable names to sanctify perhaps his dishonorable intentions?"

Astonished at these observations & a repetition of them afterwards in another Letter of May 15 which I cannot now find, I desired by Letter that Mr Wharton would give me some acct of the State papers here alluded to; & in consequence of this ~~Letter~~ Desire I recd a Letter dated 1st of June the original of which will be herewith delivered

I had no ill will towards Mr Thornton, I certainly had wished to do him good & not harm; but after full reflection I coud not but think it my duty to Communicate this Letter to Dr Franklin, I did so & he thought it my duty likewise to communicate it to the other Commissrs I promised to do it, though I did not know & am still uncertain whether Mr Wharton might not blame my proceeding thus for a journey into Flanders & my hurry since that journey have Retarded the proposed communication until the present time.

In Answer to Mr Wharton's Letter of the 1st of June, I wrote that the papers shewn to him by Mr Thornton appeared to me to be forgeries, & forgeries which coud not have been made with so much art & pains unless for a purpose of considerable moment, and that I did not conceive any purpose Mr Thornton coud answer by them, unless it were to sell them to the British Ministry, or to dupe some persons into Insurances or other gaming speculations. In reply to this Mr Wharton wrote me on the 16 June as follows

"Your last acknowledges the receipt of my information respecting Thorn— & I am glad you shewed it to the old Gentleman. It is high time such a forgerer shd be discarded. Your conjectures are right. He either must have used the papers with Ministry or employed them to gull others— & in the latter number I must include myself having suffered but too much by him." This constitutes the most important Charge against Mr Thornton — Reports of his imprudence have been numerous — Capt. All & many others coming from England have repeated conversations held by Mr Thornton at Mr Hartley's & in other places, suited indeed to flatter the prejudices of Englishmen, but very unfit to be held by any man known to be employed by one of the American Commissrs. There have been also acts of indiscretion of another nature— A Correspondent of mine wrote on the 12th of May as follows—

"Thornton arrived here ~~last night~~ again the 8th Instant in the Evening— His friends or himself must surely be engaged in Stocks or insurances. He called on me this morning & what was only doubtful before he arrived he makes

certain

certain by every where declaring that the Toulon fleet are gone to America under orders to attack all English Vessels there — I think him an odd Character & connected as he is with certain people here, I shall avoid him —

Mr Ridley & others in their Letters have enquired concerning Mr Thornton in terms which imply that they think his language & conduct extraordinary & suspicious.

Some time about the 20th of May Mr Saml Wharton sent me the Copy of a Letter to him from Mr Thornton desiring Mr Wharton to discount a Bill which he said would be drawn (a) by him on Mr Grand for acct of Arthur Lee Esqr — That Mr Lees name could not indeed be mentioned in the Bill — That the Mr Thornton durst not take a Credit from any Banker in Paris on any Banker in London because that would have blown all, but that he had been recommended for supplies of Money to a Mr Bridger who was gone to Bath &c — The Copy of this Letter was

left

left with Dr F. & has not since been returned or it wd. have been cited at large. Mr Wharton did not chuse to discount Mr Thorntons Bill, but in compliment to Mr Lee he lent Mr Th— twenty pounds or guineas I forget which; & some weeks after I recd. from him a Letter of which the paper marked No 2 is a part & in the hand writing of Mr Saml. Wharton—

It can scarce be necessary for me to say that I am not actuated by any enmity towards Mr Thornton in this relation— I have entered on it reluctantly from a sense of duty only, & after delays which a mind influenced by ill will or resentment would not have permitted to take place

True Copy of a Paper in the hand-writing of Dr. Bancroft, & delivered by him to Mr. Adams.

A. Lee

(a) Mr Thornton was sent to get intelligence. I gave him thirty Guineas for his expences & he afterwards had 20 more on my Account from Mr Grand's, our Bankers, sent in London. I therefore believe all this about discounting the Bill to be a forgery, for he had neither leave to draw a Bill nor orders. A Lee

(No 185)

Copy of a Paper
in the Handwriting of Dr. Bancroft
and delivered by him to Mr. Adams.

(No 272)

Sheweth

That your Petitioners are impressed with the deepest concern on perceiving that the war in which we have for three years been involved with our Brethren in North America has been attended with Successes from which we have derived no advantage and Distresses which admit of no Remedy

That in the present miserable and uncertain State of our Affairs the only Circumstances of which we have no doubt are Burdens intolerable and impending Ruin

That it is no longer from any speculative opinions we had formed of the Rights of either Party in this unhappy dispute or of the nature and extent of their respective Resources that we are led to condemn the Cause or Conduct of this War since it now stands ~~universally acknowledged~~ confessed that the very authors of it themselves convinced of the error or impracticability of their measures have abandoned the objects which first gave rise to the contest and appear anxious to conciliate the enemies they affected to despise.

That your Petitioners are so solicitous for the restoration of Peace on any terms which will insure the permanent happiness of ~~both~~ the two Countries not to rejoice at the offer of any

Proposals which profess that for their object and they rely on the timely Care of this Hon.ble House for ripening these hopeful appearances into Fruits of lasting amity and union At the same time they lament and lamenting must strongly condemn that fatal delay which has reduced their country to the necessity of attempting to recover half an empire which common Prudence might have preserved

That we have fought to subdue Provinces we had not the wisdom to retain and are now negotiating to regain by concession what we have not ability to conquer by arms

That your Petitioners give the fullest credit even to those by whom the nation has been betrayed into its fatal situation for their present repentance whether it is the effect of necessity or of conviction but but can never forget that by their misconduct thirteen flourishing Colonies are lost nor can they ever be persuaded that what remains of this disjointed empire is safe in the hands of Men so intemperate so incon-sistent and so incapable

Finally your Petitioners think it their duty to represent the apprehensions they entertain that the concessions now proposed may prove too weak an inducement to a People whose confidence we have forfeited to relinquish engagements into which they may have been driven and to implore the House by every motive of Duty and of Justice to institute an immediate enquiry into the nature the extent and dates of those engagements and if a full and necessary of the high Power with which the Honble House is invested by the Constitution to pursue in due time to Shame and Punishment those who by betraying the honor of the Crown and degrading the Character of this once glorious nation have justly incurred the resentment of a discredited declining much injured People

Parker & Caley

A Petition

without signature date or Address

(but probably to Parliament)

on

Terms of Peace

(No 272)

My lords & gentlemen 1778 (128)

I have receivd your letter of —
and laid it before Congress with its inclosures — In
answer I am instructed to inform you, that
Congress ever ready to stop the effusion of human
blood have been induced to ~~[illegible]~~ hear your
letter read, ^through^ and have considered it with a
coolness that | and to consider its inclosures
that having | notwithstanding the very ~~inadmissible~~ ^injurious^
and offensive things that are contained in the former.
But it is impossible Congress can fail to be affected with
the higest ~~resentment~~ ^indignation^ ^resentment^ at the indignity offered them by
the indecent reflections you have thought proper to
make upon ~~the~~ his most Ch. Majesty the ^great^ good &
~~faithful~~ ally of these States. The ~~[illegible]~~ ^the^ Commission
from his Britannic Majesty under which you act,
a copy of which you have inclosed, and the Acts of
Parliament on which ^the Commission^ ~~it~~ is founded, being both
formed upon the idea of the good people of these
States being Subjects of the Crown of Great Britain,
and proposing peace upon dependent principles
and a return to the domination of a power that
hath accumulated every injury and insult on these
unoffending States, Congress consider them both as
totally inadmissible, and cannot consent to any
further communications on such grounds — ~~Congress~~
I am further instructed to inform your Excellency
that Congress will be always ready to ~~enter upon~~ ^the Consideration of^
a Treaty of Peace, when a ~~[illegible]~~ sincere disposition
thereto shall be evidenced on the part of ~~[illegible]~~ ^his B Mty^ by an
^explicit^ acknowledgement of the Independence of these States,
and by withdrawing ~~[illegible]~~ his Fleets from our Coasts
and his Armies from the U States —

Letter from [illegible]

to the King's commiss-

ioners.

Mr. Benoit rue Traversiere, au coin du cul de sac a cote d'un chandelier paris

je t'envoye mon ami, un cordon de mes cheveux, c'est le seul gage que je puis te donner de ma tendresse, j'emporte ton image au fond de mon coeur, rapelle toi quelque fois mon souvenir, souviens toi que je porte le gage de notre amour que le sentiment qui m'unit a toi me le rend cher. les larmes m'empechent d'ecrire, viens s'il est possible ce soir a cinq heures cinq heures et demie. recois des baisers brulants. je serai toute ma vie ton amie benoit

un mot de reponse si tu viens ce soir, si je ne te vois plus tu auras de mes nouvelles a la haye.

Translation

I send you, my friend, a string of my hair. It is the only pledge I can give you of my love. I bear your image at the bottom of my heart. Remember me sometimes — Remember that I bear within me the pledge of our mutual love — How dear is it rendered by my sentiments for you. — My tears prevent my writing — Let nothing, if possible prevent you from coming at four or five & a half this Even^g.
Come & receive my burning kiss
I shall be all my life your friend

Benoit

Committee of Foreign Correspond

Gentlemen (No 114)

I have taken the advantage of the arrival of the Globe to press the Loan of two Millions & will transmit the Answer as soon as I receive it. The order for sending Supplies is renewed upon the old footing, & I trust you will receive Woollens, Druggs, & some Naval Stores thro' that Channel. We are signing the Notes for the Loan in Holland, which is a work of time particularly to myself, as I annex a secret mark to each signature to detect any forgeries, which no doubt will be attempted by Individuals, & perhaps by the government with which we are at war.

I have not signd the general Letter because the message was received & the Answer made while I was signing the Notes, without sending for me so that I cannot bear witness to a declaration which I did not hear, & which, had I been

(No 114) 76 from Amn. For: Corresp.ce

present, I should have desird in writing from a Sec. & signd,
(No 155)

knowing, from the experience we have had, that these sorts of conversations with under Secretaries are not to be relied upon. These & other, reasons which I will not trouble you with, would have made me Dissent from the proceedings on that Message, & have made me withold my signature from the Letter.

No. 155

76

My dispatches of April the 11th. May the 9th 20th & 23d June the 1st 9th 15th & 18th. July the 6th 16th 20th 26th 29th Augst 21st & 31st Septr 9th & 30th Octr 5th & 29th Novr 4th, 18th & 20th and Decr 5th remain unanswered.

Nothing material has since happened in Europe. The late proceedings in Holland discover that the English party have gained ground there. The truth is that the English borrow their money and then bribe them with it. For it is so manifestly their Interest to join against England, & their advantages from the Trade of America being free, are clearly so much greater than those of any other Nation, that unless their Rulers were blinded by some powerful application it is impossible, but that they should be active and earnest in promoting this Revolution.

The Court of France is acting with firmness & wisdom to reclaim them by powerful motives of Interest.

There does not at present seem any probability of an accomodation in Germany. The ordinary of the Expences our Enemy is to incur this Year stands thus.

Exchequer Bills to be paid off	£2,500,000
British Troops	3,640,000
Foreign — do	,713,000
Navy	4,589,000
Militia	700,000
	12,142,000

... which [illegible] be [illegible] £17,812,000

The present force on the British Establishment

Troops	92,144
	24,000
Seamen	14,440
Augmentation to the militia by new levy	34,706
Of the united [illegible]	6,000
American forces	14,000
Irish Establishment	
	191,000

tho' they will never be able to realize this number or near it, yet the expence will not therefore be diminished. [illegible] such an enormous increase of expence which [illegible] have doubled [illegible] the Commerce is [illegible] gradually [illegible] must surely be [illegible] have [illegible] of Britain [illegible] ruinous a Contest. Nothing seems more sure, than that she will not even get the stipulated number of recruits from Germany: much less has she any chance of [illegible] augmentation.

Yet all the devices concur in assuring us, that the Cabinet is determined on pushing the War in America, for which purpose they propose sending the following Regiments, 1st and 2d Battalions of Royals, 3, 11th, 13th, 19th, 23d, 30th, 32d, 36th, & 39th. The 12th 66 & 67 from Ireland. These 14 Regiments may contain from 5 to 6 thousand men. [illegible] my Correspondants on whom I have much reliance, think they will be sent to the W. Indies, and not to the Continent. In truth I believe they will wait till the Operations

the People in their Islands in order to [illegible] ment.

Inclosed are Copies of the Bill of Lading and the Invoice of Supplies shipt from Bilbao, which I hope will arrive safe. You also have an account of the money I have been entrusted with, & how I have expended it. The vouchers are the Merchants acc^ts which I have regularly transmitted as I have received them.

The enclosed copy is of a letter received from Dr Berkenhout, by which Congress will see how much our enemies are distressed, and yet how inveterate they are in their persuasion, that because every thing is venal among themselves therefore it must be so among us. It looks like a visitation upon the King of England and his advisers, that Experience never makes them wise. They see & have seen, or rather they feel the necessity of making peace. they have tryed all undue Means in vain, & yet they still persist in dishonoring & disgracing themselves by a repetition of ineffectual attempts, and neglect the only and obvious means pointed out to them by Congress of obtaining upon honorable terms the pacification, for which they will shortly be obliged to sue most humbly.

A. L.

"From our first arrival here Mr Deane seems to have considered me as a dangerous check upon him, and therefore it has been a continued course of intrigue by means of his agents, Mr Carmichael and Dr Bancroft, to traduce me and to assume to himself all the active power of the Commission, so as even to endeavor to have it generally believed that either I was not a commissioner or totally insignificant. From this conduct in private, and in the public papers of this kind they are now come to have Franklin & Deane constantly mentioned and praised as the Commissioners. — During my absence in Germany they circulated a report both here & in England, that a quarrel subsisted between Dr Franklin & me, & in order to fasten himself in appearance and in reality to Dr Franklin, Mr Deane gave up a house &c." —

---

comme notre liste de livres etoit presante

matin, Monsieur, je ne vous ai point

demandé a lire les papiers que vous

viez avec vous. Il est vray que en

neme temps, Je sentois que je n'en

pouvois faire aucun usage direct — —

cependant J'ay un grand desire de les

connoitre ainsy Je vous prie de les —

apporter mercredi a moins que vous

ne jugiez apropos de m'en les envoyer

auparavant ce qui seroit encore

mieux Je m'en irois bien a les avoir

Demain au soir pour &c

Demanche 28.

A Monsieur

Monsieur Arthur Lee
a Lhotel d Espagne
Rue Guenegau

(No 322)

The swedish Ship you mention in your fa-
vor of the 28th. Sepr. as having been captured by Cun-
ningham, was I suppose sent to America, as I have
not heard of her in Europe. You may depend upon
it that when the circumstances you mention ap-
pear before the Admiralty Court in any of the Uni-
ted States, the Ship & Cargoe will be restored
with such damages as are due. You know the
pains I took to warn all our Cruizers against
offering any injury to neutral vessels. Congress
has since issued a similar injunction & direc-
ted the security taken for their good behaviour
to be doubled. Cunningham is by this time in
America, & will hardly return to give you
any farther cause of complaint. I long ago
ordered him to France, where he would have
been more immediately under our contr[ol]
But he did not obey, which in a situat[ion]
li[ke ou]rs is inevitable in some instances.

[T]he Loan I propos'd for the

payable in money as in Tobacco it a

impossible to settle the price. The principal to b

reimbursed in ten years. It is impossible to say

where the money will be wanted, as that will

depend on the best markets for the different

Supplies which are wanting for that State.

You see by the proceedings of the british

Commissioners in America, that the english

ministry were so well assured of the pacific inten

tions of your Court as apparently to have instructed

their Commissioners to declare that Spain di

[...]d the conduct ~~the conduct~~ of France

in forming an Alliance with us. This decla

ration by them supported by appearances on your side

[...]es much uneasiness in America. The reasons

[...]merly urged against taking an open part

[...]known do not now exist, yet they see no

[...]nents, & suffer much from the uncertainty.

I suppose you have heard that upon

[...]h fleet having been obliged to quit Rhode

[...] unfortunate storm, o[...] [...]ised

without any loss, after repulsing the Enemys
that march'd out to attack their rear. We ex
every day to hear what will be the movemen
of the fleets when they are refitted.

I have the honor to be
with great esteem
Dear Sir
Yr most Obedt Humbl Servt
Arthur Lee

Arthur Lee

(No 322) — to (probably) The Spanish ambassador

1779

2 On the 3d. of december Mr. Lee writes thus—"The Commissioners have not yet furnished me with the necessary papers for my Northern expedition, as soon as they do I shall out" ~~and decem. 8th~~ He writes ~~as soon as the Commrs furnish me with the necessary papers~~ The last express from Boston that sailed Octr. 31. got here the 4th instant, with Congress dis=patches of Octr. 15 I think—He brings Burgoyne capitulation— By this we see that Burgoyne news arrived in Paris 4 Dect. and by Mr. Lees letters 24 Novr. & 3d. decr. already quoted, that he had long before the news of that event arrived been waiting only for the necessary papers from the Commrs. ~~[illegible]~~
These letters Mr. Deane place your candor and designs in an eminent point of view. ~~and with~~ yet you say "when the news of gen. Burgoyns defeat & surrender arrived, it produced a revolution in the mind of many; and, among others, inspired your Commercial agent & political Commissioner, the hon. W. Lee esqr. with some degree of activity in your favour.
You know Mr. Deane that before Mr. Wm Lee received from the Commissioners the necessary papers for the conduct of his negotiation in the North, the death of Mr. Thos. Morris and the state of our commercial affairs occasioned the Commissioners to propose that Mr. Lee should visit Nantes before he set out for Vienna and they applied to the Court for a royal order to ~~take~~ the Comm Com officers to deliver Mr. Lee the papers of Mr. Morris to enable the former to adjust the public affairs of the United States before he left France. Mr. Lee therefore writes from Paris 5 feb 1778 "The death of Mr. Thos. Morris obliges me to go down there (a disagreeable journey) to settle & regulate the Com. affairs of the secret Committee before my departure for Germany, which will be immediately on my return here— You are not unacquainted with the rude & indecent obstructions that Mr. Lee met with from Mr. Ross in the execution of his duty at Nantes— On his return to Paris Mr. Wm Lee writes 20 feb. ~~1778~~ "Being only detained for the Commissioners to finish

13 the necessary proceedings relative to Mr. Norris's papers; which being done I shall set out ~~for Vienna~~ immediately for Vienna. According to the usual mode of doing business here, that which ought not to take up more than 2 or 3 ~~days~~ hours, will I expect keep me here 10 or 12 days. — The political and Mercantile Characters should be entirely distinct and seperate, and both of them executed by persons of your express appointment. If this regulation does not take place soon, an infinite deal of mischief will inevitably ensue — More money comes in here from voluntary contributions than will furnish all the supplies you want & pay the interest of all the money you have borrowed in Europe & America, for the expenditure of which (money borrowed in Europe) no account is rendered nor can any be procured!! Before I dismiss this part of the subject I cannot avoid making one striking observation — It is remarkable that you quarrel with Mr. Wm. Lee for concealing his appointment, and ~~with~~ blame Dr. Lee for making known his, you ~~say~~ admit Mr. Lee came to France in consequence of his appointment to the Commercial Agency, yet you insinuate that he remained inactive least he should injure his Aldermanship and his affairs in England — ~~You~~ Strange that he sh.d come to France that he might preserve his Aldermanship by inactivity when remaining in London would ~~[illegible]~~ with much less ~~[illegible]~~ have preserved it more effectually & ~~[illegible]~~ appointment ~~[illegible]~~

Now if the apprehensions your insinuate had operated with him, more than the desire of serving his Country what occasion for ~~comming~~ going to France to display these apprehensions — remaining in London would have rendered him secure, and prevented the necessity of your giving insinuating prudence — It Yours is a clumsy Calumny to say the least of it — Let me now examine the texture of your that calumnious web and which you wish to entrap the reputation of Mr. R. H. L. You first take much pains to persuade the public that Dr. Berkenhout was a Ministerial Tory Agent, and having done this as you ~~think~~ hoped, you proceed to adduce the evidence

the Tory you had made, to injure the reputation of a Whig whose conduct since the first commencement of Congress has rendered him as obnoxious as any Man living to the whole race of Tories. Your Ally Plain Truth has pursued your example, and having betrayed your innuendo Mr. Lee into a connection with Berkenhout, that most inveterate of all Tories Lieut. Col. Connelly, or as Plain Truth calls him, is produced as a witness to blacken Berkenhout, thereby to injure Mr. Lee. ~~You and your party kept better~~ [illegible] Whigs are to be destroyed by Tory evidence [illegible] The whole race of Whigs will presumably be done away from the face of the earth.

Mr. R. H. Lee has already given to the public his account of this affair. It seems that a person unknown to him, but formerly acquainted with his brother, upon the footing of that acquaintance, in a strange country, applies to Mr. Lee informing him that his views in coming to America was to settle in a land of liberty, and desires Mr. Lee's advice where he should fix himself, being expressly allowed to come here by [illegible] Mr. Lee having no [illegible] to suppose him other than he professed, and his conversation expressing the strongest attachment to the independence of America, Mr. Lee treated him with civility, and when his name was mentioned in conversation, Mr. Lee said, as he believed, that he esteemed Dr. Berkenhout to be a good Whig. What evidence have we to think the contrary now, but unmeaning tales, far fetched innuendoes, Tory evidence, and reports of conversations made by a Man as Petto who may be as great a Tory as Mr. Connelly. And after all, suppose Dr. Berkenhout had been a Tory how could Mr. Lee know it, unless [illegible] the power of penetrating [illegible] Men's hearts, is not the property of Man.

The accounts I have given, Mr. Deane, are founded on original letters and unquestionable facts, which, if you or your party can disprove [illegible] produce your evidence—

C

virtuous Citizens of America whom you have dared
[illegible] with calumnious insinuations against
their most eminent men and friends of our cause,
[illegible] you and your Associates in [illegible]
[illegible] you and your Associates may expect
[illegible] that [illegible] is due to the
calumniators of eminent men, and those
who attempt to impose upon the Community
Had you been provided either with facts, or evidence to
support those facts you would not have in so solemn a
way appeal to the free and virtuous Citizens of the America
have ventured to trifle as you have done with a collection
When you inserted in your Address part of a Letter
supposed to have been written by Dr Lee after the Treaty
was signed, did you intend to give or conceal the true
means by which Mr Fox came to know that the Treaty was
concluded? I have seen the copy of a certificate given by
a Mr Livingston who declares he saw a letter from Dr
Bancroft [illegible] to his Correspondent in London
not long before the Treaty was signed, Advising
him to push his speculations for he had it from the best
Authority that the Treaty would be signed the fourth
or fifth of February — Mr Livingston knew the Doctors
hand well and believed the above letter to
be his hand writing — It is more than probable that
you know what authority furnished Dr Bancroft with
that information, as you acknowledge that Gentleman
to be your principal friend and Councillor. Nor is it
unlikely that you could unfold, if you would,
what those speculations were — Lord North told Mr
Hartley that the American Commissioners were [illegible]
in the British funds, and will you affirm that
you knew nothing of your Clerk or Secretary or
any person with your knowledge, going to London
on this business — But of this more hereafter —
I shall for the present conclude with advising
you not to be so much offended with those
who do their duty in calling on you to settle
your accounts for the expenditure of such large
sums of public money — [illegible] have delayed it long [illegible] the length, it is to be
hoped will take the most effectual measures to have
this speedily and fairly done — Economist

injure the Character of Dr Lee, a great part of whose
Life has been employed in defending with his pen
the cause of America and its friends— Even your
"Venerable Colleague" has experienced heretofore
the benefits of ~~Arth~~ Lees pen, when he was perse=
=cuted by the British Ministry. But the
candid public will require other proofs, ~~than the~~
~~for~~ before they suffer ~~him~~ Dr Lee to be injured in their
esteem: than the calumnious assertions of a
Man imbittered ~~by~~ against him, because he
~~demanded a~~ called for a settlement of the
public accounts, and endeavored to prevent the
wasting of the public treasure. | Your next attack
is upon Mr Wm Lee, and here again I must charge
you with sinning against knowledge, and hope to
make my charge good ~~appear~~. You say "In feb. 1777 I received
a notification of the appointment of Wm Lee esqr to be one
of yr commercial agents in Europe, of which I gave
him notice. As your commercial affairs ~~were~~; at that
time in such a state (why did you not say who put them in that state, you were afraid to wound some of yr friends) as to require much attention and
care, I pressed this gentleman then in Engld to ~~immediately~~ come over
and execute his Office, but heard nothing from him till
the ~~month of June~~ at this time he continued until abt some time in August when he went to Nantz, when he arrived at Paris. You are
an Adept at managing dates to answer your purposes.
your design here was to render Mr Lee's ~~…~~ affections suspected
by a display of remissness, delay, and apprehension of
mischief to his affairs in England— You therefore take ad=
=vantage of the whole month of feb, because you fix on no
day in that month, and you proceed "of which I gave him
notice". The conclusion you mean to inculcate is, that you
gave notice in feb. and that tho you pressed him to
come over immediately yet he came not until June—
This conclusion would suit your purpose exactly. Mr Lee
~~who~~ is now absent endeavoring to serve his Country in
Germany, therefore not in a capacity to defend himself; but
in a letter of the ~~12~~ 31 of July from Paris he writes to his friend "Some time in
April your friend recd a letter in London from Mr D. one
of the Commrs just mentioning the appointment & desiring
to know whether he wd accept of the trust"— You say
you pressed him to come over immediately and execute
his Office— I hope your original letter for the honor of
your veracity will appear
hereafter—

9 ~~Mr. Lee goes on, saying afterwards I received a letter from one of the Commissioners~~ ~~... Afterwards he received one or two letters from another of your Commissioners saying that the Mercantile affairs~~

Mr. Lee goes on saying he arrived in the begin-
of June & applied to the Commissioners, Messrs. F. & D.
(Mr. L being absent) for his appointment and instruct-
which he supposed they had kept for him 'till he arr-
was told they knew nothing about either — However
they both complained grievously of the conduct of M-
Morris & advised your friend to wait here as a M-
Ross was gone to Nantes to attempt to make a settle-
=ment with Mr. M. accordingly he staid and a very fe-
days ago he was told that Mr. Morris had been po-
=ssessed of the appointment and instructions for som-
time, your friend accordingly setts off for Nantes
tomorrow to enter on his Mission." Mr. Lees nex-
letter is dated Nantes 12 Augt. 1777 — "I wrote you two
since my being in this Country, but as they may miscar-
I must again mention that it is above two months sin-
I came to the continent in consequence of informati-
I received late in April that I was honored w-
the appointment of superintending the pub. com-
concerns in Europe — The mortifications I have
met with are not easily to be described, and they
are not lessened by receiving advice this day from
~~London~~ that the utmost vengeance of the enem-
will be speedily exercised against me and m-
The sacrifice I have made of honors, property &
would very little affect me, if I found myself arm-
with sufficient powers to do any effectual pub. s-
=vice, & met with people more disposed to forward th-
general utility than to gratify their own pride an-
promote their individual interest. I have never
received a line from the Committee or any of my
particular friends for near 18 Months past —
This moment while writing, Mr. Morris has
sent me some letters from the Committee directed to
us jointly and mentioning our appointment — I

shall now proceed with confidence. ~~Wc~~ — I have said
I have it not now by me, copy of a letter from Mr.
John Ross at Nantes to you ^Mess Mr. Deane at Paris
informing you ~~that Mr.~~ Mr. Morris had kept up
Mr. Wm Lees appointment, but that he was
then willing to deliver it. and urging you to
press Mr. Lee to come and put the Com.l affairs
into order as they were much deranged — As
Mr. Ross is known to be no friend of Mr. Lees, this
letter (which I hope will be published hereafter) con-
firms beyond a doubt what Mr. Lee has written as above
and ^they certainly leaves you without excuse for con-
cealing this circumstance from the public and
insinuating that Mr. Lees delay arose from other
causes — Let us see ~~xxxxxxxx~~ what ^insinuation suggested you
and for your other ~~suppositions~~ ^contradictory that Mr. Lee delayed
going to Vienna, that he is political & com.l Agent
at the same time &c &c On the 7th Oct. Mr. Wm
Lee writes "Just this moment is put into my hands the
instructions & appointment to Vienna & Berlin — The
following will clearly shew that Mr. Wm Lee considered
his acceptance of the Political appointment as disch.g
him from the Commercial Agency He writes ^from Nantes
The line that Congress has thot proper
Nov. 24 1777. I rather doubt my abilities to exce
to place me in
ceed is agreeable to their wishes; but xx on mature
~~reflection~~ consideration I have resolved to enter on
the service because I do not know whom they could
find here that is unemployed to execute the necessary
functions better than myself; & because I find from
experience that it is not in my power to render the pub.
any essential services in the mercantile line, since Mr.
Deane has in fact taken upon himself the authority
of suspending the secret Committees appointment of Mr.
Thos. Morris and myself as mercantile Agents by
appointing Mr. Jonathan Williams a young Man of
about 22 years old and nephew to Dr. Franklin
as Agent for the pub. business in Nantes and
ordered him to take charge of selling all prizes

11

b made by Continental armed Vessels, giving orders at the same [time] to the Captains to put their prizes into Mr. Will[iams'] hands tho' he knows perfectly well that the sale of prizes was expressly committed to Mr. Morris and myself by the Secret Committee See their letter of Oc[t] 25 1776 to Mr. T. M— In this last business Mr. D[eane] says he acted with the approbation and consent of Dr. Franklin, but the letters on the subject, I am well informed, both to Mr. Williams & the Capt[ains] are signed by Mr. Deane alone. His view in appointing Mr. Williams must be so evident that I have no occasion to mention it. I could no[t] therefore continue to act for the public, witht. com[ing] to an open rupture with Mr. Deane, which at this critical moment might be attended with bad consequences to our public; ~~because~~ I ~~therefore wait with patience~~ — In fact the Pub business in this Country has been and is likely to continue, in very strange disorder nor is it likely to mend until the Secret Committee confine all their Mercantile business to their Mercantile Agen[ts] & keep the Commissioners to their political duty which may be neglected from too much attention to private schemes of commerce on public funds, and contemptible private jobs. I am now out of the question, therefore cannot be charged with partiality in any advice — [as the Comrs. have already spec[ified] in money +] Three Mil. 387,500 Livres for your use is it not incumbent on you to call immediately for an account of the expenditure of this money — Certainly you ought without a days delay — I have just discharged my duty in thus giving you a true [what I thought] state of ~~my~~ your affairs here and shall from henceforth take my leave of this department, keeping my attention entirely ~~fixed~~ confined to the charge which is committed to my care — So strangely is business managed here that it is now above a fortnight since I have been waiting for a copy of the Treaty to propose to Vienna and Berlin & have not yet got it from the Commissioners, tho there are 3 or 4 hangers on that are maintained at the pub expence, and for some of whom there will probably by be a charge made as Secretary to the [Commn] B

b This was in Novr. 1777

+ The Comrs were directed by Congress to borrow 2 mil[lions] before Mr. Deane came away & [illegible] was

3,756,250

for—

the resolution you have published does. Let us attend now to
another of your doings, or rather Misdoings, for this had
like to have produced very serious consequences. — Every reflecting
thinking Man will immediately discern that it was your
paramount duty to secure the favor and friendship of the
Court of France by the most scrupulous attention to your conduct.
The Service of your Country demanded it, and the clearest
Policy must have suggested it. But altho you had the
sense of the Court previously and fully signified, you set
the Reprisal, the Lexington, and the Dolphin to cruise on
the English coast against
that sense, and lastly you caused Cunninghame's
Cutters to be fitted out at Dunkirk for the same cruising
business, not only against the desires of the Court of France
but the express orders of the Committee to Mr. Hodge
who was directed to lay his letters before you
and follow your advice — We will
consider this affair of the Cutters with some attention, because
it is very explanatory of a jobbing character. The Committee sent to
direct 2 quick sailing Cutters to be purchased and to be fit
America with Stores, and so contrived as to be fit
for good Cruisers on this Coast afterwards — You was to advise
about the execution of this business, & how did you do it —
Were they ever sent here? Were they not made a mixt
concern of public and private concern — Were not 10,000,000 l.
at least of the public money employed in fitting & refitting
them — Were not they sent to cruise first on the Coast of Eng.
against the desires of France & the orders of Congress, instead of
bringing Stores here for the Army. Did they not offend first
the Court of France & then the Court of Spain by the prizes
they took — Were not these prizes consigned to private
hands first in Europe & then in the West Indies instead
of being delivered to the Agents of the U. S. in both these places.
Have they not finally been sold with^t pub. authority to the
private use — And has the money been brought to the
public credit — Has not Capt. Cunninghame complained
for himself & his officers, at finding themselves changed from Public Officers as they
thought they were, to Persons in private service —
Answer these questions fully & fairly — You should
the public interest requires that you should
But I suppose it will be said again that answers to
such questions will Criminate yourself. You and
your party are not aware how plainly such an objection
admits the existence of guilt. "We are told likewise
of the complimentary letters you have received from
Count De Vergennes in the Kings and his own name

When you furnish the public with these, will you also ~~supply~~ publish a letter of the same great Minister to complaining in the strongest terms of your conduct in the instances I have mentioned of the Reprisal, Lexington, Dolphin And his letters to Mons.r Grand on the same subject and of ~~the~~ the ~~[illegible]~~ Cutters fitted at Dunkirk— For if the complements paid to an Am. Commission after the American Arms had placed ~~them~~ our cause on high ground, is shewn to procure praise to him, we ought to know how the conduct of the same Commissioner had like to have controuled our affairs before success here had done away his follies, that to call it by no harder name— I hope these Letters will be published because they prove demonstra the sense of the Court concerning your demerits, and also the generous and friendly sentiments for America which such ill usage on your part could not remove ~~Yourself~~ It is not unknown to you what a strong tendency this business had to alienate from each other the affections ~~hearts~~ of France & America— The two instances I have mentioned prove your unfitness for a political Agent, and the last goes still further— Superadded to these, your accounts for the expenditure of 37   livres besides prize money have never been exhibited, and you must be conscious that the desire of Dr. Lee to have this settlement made long before you was ~~you employ~~ ~~was~~ is the original cause, and has continued the illfounded quarrel you have instituted against him. Yet both public duty and private honor loudly called for this settlement. The ~~[illegible]~~ alliance was a natural consequence of the success of our brave Countrymen in the field. Yet it appears that you and your party would take all merit from these, from the generosity of France and from the Councils of America, in order to adorn your brow with this happy event, and its future consequences. Having considered your doings, let me shortly dismiss your sufferings, as the ideal nature of them must be very apparent. Consider your humble station in your own Country and then say, if you were made to suffer by being translated to the elegances of a refined Capital at the public expence— The idea is ridicu lous. therefore I have done with it. ~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible] Americans and that [illegible]~~
~~[illegible] Congress [illegible]~~ I will
now proceed to consider your misrepresentation, and
calumnious innuendos against the character of the
gentlemen you have traduced. You say "I was
honored with one Colleague and saddled with another"
for shame Mr. Deane — reflect on what you was
and then determine the ~~expression~~ propriety of that
expression "Saddled" with whom, with a Gr
Man who had acquired reputation in two of the learned
professions; of fair Character and of an antient Fam. family in Virga and who had industriously employed
his talents abilities in defending the American cause so
as to have acquired the extremest hatred & detestation
of ~~his~~ our enemies; who left a situation in which
he might have made a splendid ~~his~~ fortune by practising the Law,
to serve his Country in the States Congress had called
him to — You mean to insinuate that inordinate am-
bition ~~[illegible]~~ and undue influence has
produced occasioned the appointments held by Messrs. Wm & Ar.
Lee — You know the contrary and therefore you are the
less excusable — I will relate the manner in which the latter
became appointed to the Courts of Spain — In the winter of
1776 Congress appointed Dr. Franklin to be Comr. for
Spain; ~~in the Summer following~~ and being
uncertain whether that Court would receive, or admit
the residence of a Comr. they continued Dr. Franklin
a Commissioner to France also. In the mean time
Dr. Franklin being unwilling or unable to under-
take the [illegible] business of crossing the Pyrenees
in the Winter season, and you pretending the
necessity of going to Holland where you never
went, both joined in persuading Dr. Lee to go to
Spain, remaining yourselves in the ease and
splendor of Paris. Dr. Lee's zeal in his Country's
cause induced him to undertake the onerous journey
from which you shrunk — When your letter informed
Congress in the Summer 1778 ~~following~~ that, not Dr. Frankl[in]
but Dr. Lee had by your joint advice gone to
Spain

it was thought expedient to send the same commissions to
Dr Lee that had been before given to Dr Franklin
and he was continued for ~~Spain~~ [Berlin & Spain] upon the same
principles as Dr Franklin had before been — You
knew that Dr Franklin had been previously to Dr Lee
appointed both for France & Spain at the same time
why did you conceal this [from the public] in your account, because
it did not suit your purpose of insinuating that
ambition and influence gained these appointments
in Dr Lee. And for purposes equally honest and candid
you you have assigned other than the right reasons for
Dr Lee's going no further than Burgos. You [knew] perfectly
well that the political situation of that Court did not
admit of receiving a Commission from America at
Madrid, and even tho your "venerable Colleague"
had continued in the appointment, he could not
have been received at Madrid — Again to save your-
-selves trouble, you persuaded Dr Lee to travel to
Prussia — The same zeal for his Country carried him
there also — If the British Envoy contrived to have his
doors forced or locks picked whilst [being] at dinner, you
ought not to insinuated this as a fault, but have
candidly told the manner ~~it~~ in which the papers
were robbed, and the speedy effectual means used
to recover them, before the evil doer could avail
himself of them. It is certain that Mr Elliot gained
no credit by this Manoeuvre. And when the time
for promulgation comes, it will be seen that in
both these negotiations Dr Lee accomplished as
much as the nature and situation of things ad-
-mitted at the time — for the honor of human nature I am
sorry to say, after what you have written, that
you know this to be true. But ~~all~~ your designs
in the publications that goes under your name, as [will be]
[further] ~~made~~ evident ~~when~~ to the public, when they are
made acquainted that Dr Lee ~~was~~ second & not only Commissioner ~~before the publication~~, the
for France but for Spain only ~~~~, plenipotentiary for France
appointment of Dr Franklin plenipotentiary for France
superseding ~~all~~ [the] commissions both of Mr Adams and
Dr Lee at that Court. It would be a business
an endless work to follow you in all your
intrigues &c and insinuations to

N

[Let] us now see how you [struck] executed the [struck]

[struck] limited instructions

procuring 4 Engineers — You entered into written Con-
tracts with an host of Officers; from the Ensign [to] the Maj[or]
General & [struck] The expences, the pay,
[&] the commands, and the pensions of these gentlemen
astonished Congress, enraged the Army, and produced
[a] heavy expence for defraying the charges of [these] new [struck]
return to [struck]. And we are now informed
that you finally proposed a German Commander in Chief for
the Army — These things seem to prove that your Head
was turned by your sudden elevation. These things strongly
[denote] that species of intoxication which sudden elevation
often produces, and by the [struck] manner in
which you have behaved since your return to America
it appears that sober reason has not yet resumed its
seat. Your party have endeavoured to gloss these unjustifiable
contracts by displaying the abilities and worth of these Officers —
Admit their worth to be as great as your [Silence]. [struck]
[struck], Yet is this a reason
[for] violating [struck] the letter [struck] of your instructions —
The Congress was best qualified to judge how far
the [struck] particular state of our Affairs would
suffer the admission of foreign Officers, however
able, and the Congress limited you to four Engineers —
The next apology is, that it was dangerous to offend the great
patrons of these Officers — Both reason & experience destroy
this excuse — Reasonable Men could not be offended at
with your refusing to make a breach of positive instructions, which
might involve you in disgrace, then in disappointment
and produce the most pernicious consequences in America
And accordingly we find no [struck] inconvenience arose from
such refusal after Dr. Franklin and Mr. Lee arrived —
[struck]
[struck]
the manner in which the Army resented at these contracts, to ratify
found it improper, exclusive of other considerations
tion. The public reason assigned by Congress in their Resolu-
relieved [struck] to some of these Officers reprobating your
conduct, rendered your recall necessary — This you
know was the true cause of your return, and not the
[in]jurious [conduct] [struck] to others. It is true that some time after
Mr. Adams had been appointed your Successor a Motion
was made and carried for letting you down as easily as

644 (276)

Mr. Purdie Sir, The business of controversy is not
pleasant, and that species of it the leading encouraging which investi-
gates the ~~there~~ ~~living~~ the characters of living Men. The world inclines
perhaps with too much reason, to suppose that partiality in
some cases, and prejudice in others, directs the Writers pen. In
the In the present ~~case~~ instance however, a strict regard for the virtuous
citizens of America, and reverence for the cause they support
forces me to overcome all difficulties and to lay before the public
such facts as have come to my knowledge and such reflections
as I have been able to make on the business cause lately brought
before the bar of the public by Mr. Silas Deane. My
materials are good, and by a faithful adherance to facts
I shall merit the public attention. It is certainly for the
honor of human nature and most clearly in support appeared to ~~stood~~
of Whiggism that those characters which have stand
~~forth in the worst of times and ~~ ~~flourishing~~ American Liberty and
forth ~~...~~ in the zealous assertors of American Liberty and
Independence in the greatest adversity, should not be ~~...~~
When we see certain ~~orators~~ Men ~~...~~
not for many years themselves
~~...~~ distinguished by their d[?]e exertions ~~...~~
in favor of our cause, and by when these
efforts have been in such a live & such manner as to injure
rather than promote their private personal fortunes, it seems
~~...~~ reasonable and candid to suppose that public
spirit alone influenced ~~...~~ their conduct. So judging of the
Mr. Lees motives I ~~was~~ have been surprized to read in the
~~public papers~~ Gazettes, and to hear ~~that~~ that hand
bills had been industriously for the same purpose circulated, publications
designed to represent these Gentlemen as foes to
America and ~~friends to~~ privately leaguing with
its enemies. It appeared to me that not only the cause
of Whiggism, but ~~even of human nature itself was~~ ~~...~~ good
speech it was ~~natural~~ to expect ~~...~~ investigating this business
concerned in attentively
I have therefore considered with care the several publications
that have come to my hands, and diligently procured
the best information concerning the subject. Original
Letters and ~~...~~ authentic documents ~~...~~ are my
guides. Mr. Deane having been removed by from Congress by
his Countrymen ~~...~~ and (as it was understood at the
time) being bound to France on private speculations, two

Paris 21st 1778

My dear Brothr

By my letter to the Committee of this date you will see that I have delivered to the Commissioners here a copy of the treaty which I had negotiated with Holland and which I have strong reasons for believing I could have soon brought to a conclusion, had my authority from Congress been sufficient but what will be the issue now may be easily foreseen. The overweening self sufficiency of one and the latent plan that every one supposes has been formed of contriving Mr. D—'s return to Holland with other & similar motives will all conspire to interrupt the success; besides things very unhappily are minutely communicated to a person, that in my opinion ought not to be trusted with any thing — Of this Congress has been informed I understand, having formerly given intelligence relative to the treaty with France. If this business with Holland is communicated in its present stage to our enemies, or their emissaries in that country (of which they have a great many) it will infallibly be obstructed. All this I expect, however I have done my duty & hope Congress will approve

my

my conduct.

I am entirely of opinion with you relative to the estate & will send the proper instruments as soon as they can be got ready, which is attended with more difficulty that you can well imagine in a strange country — the season is now so far advanced that it will be impossible to get the documents to you time enough to proceed on the business before winter twelve months, as about Christmas is the only time for such a business to be done. I wish to know accurately when & how the principal money is to be repaid that is put into the Continental loan-offices, and if in the mean time the billets given for cash can be sold or converted into cash easily & without loss, pray answer me to this as soon as possible & send me the rest of Congress proceedings, having only received one Vol. for which I greatly thank you —— My station is quite out of the way for sending News-papers, pamphlets &c but I understand you get them from hence. I return to Germany immediately & shall lose no occasion of promot-
-ing

-ing the wishes of Congress in that quarter.

The Virginia business is a heavy one — I am afraid the ministry here will not do what the State expected & without them the business cannot be accomplished in this country but on such terms and in such a manner as is shameful & horrible to think of. The first demand however is nearly accomplished, but there is four times as much yet to be done. I am now pushing the subject as far as I can. Your sons are well. We have not any material news & have only time to assure you of my continued & steady affection

W. L.

R. Henry Lee Esqr.

(N.B. original sent by Mr. Gelbank
1st duplicate by Capt. Dick of Virga.
2d which is the present, sent from
Frankfort to Paris to be forwarded from thence.
Saml. W. Stockton Secry.)

(No 147)

Queries for Mr Carmichael

1. Did you receive a letter ~~a letter~~ from Dr Lee for the Committee of secret correspondence; and when & where?

2. Have you ever deliver'd it or sent it to the Committee?

3. Hath it been opened; if so, when; where and by whom was it opened and for what purpose?

4. Do you know where it now is, and who has had the possession of it?

5. Why has it been detained from the Committee?

6. Has it been demanded [illegible] of you by Dr Lee or any person in his behalf; and by whom; and why was it not deliver'd to him?

7. Have you in France declared that Dr Lee had been injuriously treated by Mr Silas Dean, if so, when, where, to whom & in what instances did you say, or mean?

8. Have you in France expressed your knowledge or opinion of Mr Dean's having been blameable in his public character touching his misapplication of the public money, or being in any other manner culpable; if so when, where, & to whom; & in what instances did you say, or mean?

9. Did you ~~[illegible]~~ France declare your design of charging Mr Dean on your arrival in America, with his misconduct in France; if so ~~[illegible]~~ when and to whom?

10. Do you know ~~[illegible]~~ whether the vessel of ~~war~~ war fitted out at Dunkirk under Capt Cunningham was by the direction or advice of Mr Dean

11. Was she on public or private account?

12. How has she since been considered public or private property?

13 Did the other Commissioners know, approve or advise to fitting her out?

14 Was she fitted out with or without the knowledge of the French Ministry?

15. Did they or any of them express to any of the Commissioners any resentment at the measure and what consequences did it produce at the Court of France?

16. Was you acquainted with Mr. John Thornton in France and had you there any conversation with him respecting ~~Mr. Deans~~ any misconduct of Mr. Dean and what was it?

17. Same concerning Mr. Lloyd

18. Same concerning Mr. Stephenson.

19. Do you know whether Mr. Dean is concerned in partnership or private trade with Mr. Holker, Sabatier, Monthieu or others

20. Is Mr. Dean & Williams concerned together in trade or in any vessels fitting out by Mr. Williams

21. Was Dr. Bancroft sent to London after Burgoine's defeat &c., by whom and for what purpose?

[No 147]

Questions
Proposed
for
Mr Carmichael

(No 113) Without date

Sir,

We received yours in which you hint that it is wish'd by some of our Friends that the Commissioners would propose a Treaty to your Government. It would really be a great Pleasure to them to be instrumental in cementing an Union between the two Republics of Holland and The United States by a Treaty of Amity & Commerce, similar to that lately concluded with France or varying where Circumstances might require it. But having received no Answer from the Grand Pensionary to a Letter they respectfully wrote his Excellency some Months since, expressing their Dispositions to such a good Work, they apprehend that any farther Motion of the kind on their part would not at present be agreable, tho' they still hold themselves ready to enter upon such a Treaty whenever it shall seem good to their High Mightinesses. —— We are &c

After the Treaty with France

118

(No 113) Commissioners to Dumas

1778

(No 2295)

No date

Etat de Comparaison par apperçu du montant du transport de Dunkerque a Nantes de Effets d'artillerie détaillés cy après pesant ensemble 507335. par les 3 differentes voyes aussi cy après Savoir

4000.	obus de 8 pouces	a 44 lb l'une		176000
2000.	Bombes de 12 pouces	a 135. l'une		270000
8000.	Boulets de 4.			32000
2.	Pierriers pesant		2340	3664
2.	Affuts pour iceux		1324	
2.	Mortiers de 8 pouces		1014	2210
2	Affuts pour iceux		1196	
6.	Obusiers de 8. pouces		6735	17613
6.	Affuts avec avantrains		10878	
4.	Affuts de pieces de 4. avec avantrains			5848
	Poids Total a transporter			507335.

1ere Voye a employer

Voiture des d. 507335. lb de Dunkerque a Orleans par terre et d'Orleans a Nantes par la Loire 41400.

(Le prix du transport de ... a Nantes par la Loire est employé dans ce qu'il en couteroit par cette voye comme par les 2 suivantes d'après ce qu'il en coute ordinairement, parce qu'on suppose qu'il surviendra une crue d'Eau avant que les Effets soient rendus a Orleans pour y être embarqués)

2e Voye a Employer

Voiture de Dunkerque a Douay par Eau de Douay a Orleans par terre et d'Orleans a Nantes par la Loire — 35500.

(Cette voye paroit etre celle qui doit etre preferée)

3me Voye a Employer

Voiture de Dunkerque a Douay par Eau de Douay a La Fere par terre, de la Fere a Paris par l'Oise et la Seyne, de Paris a Orleans par terre et d'Orleans a Nantes par la Loire — 30500.

(Cette 3e voye est impraticable quant a present, l'Oise n'étant pas navigable. Si on la preferoit il faudroit attendre, peut être long-temps, une crue d'Eau suffisante)

(No 229)

(No 230) No date nor signature

Monsieur,

Nous pensons que vous serés instruit de la Prise que fit le Celebre Cunningham, Commandant la Corvette la Vengeance, apartenante à L'honnorable Congrés des Etats unis de L'Amerique, en Decembre 1777. du Navire françois le Gratieux, capne Augustin Letournois, allant de Londres, à la Corogne avec des marchandises des manufactures Angloises. Ce Capne ayant reconnû, les Connoissements dela Cargaison, Crût appercevoir, Monsieur, que la propriété des effets en etoit Angloise; en Consequence il mit, un Chef de Prise, & quatre Matelots à Bord de ce Navire, avec ordre dele suivre à notre Port, mais

Monsieur Franklin

Forcé par les mauvais temps, il fût contraint de prendre celuy de S.t Sebastien, où M.r le Marquis de Bassecourt Gouverneur du Guipuzcoa, fit emprisonner le Chef de Prise, & ses Marins.

Sur cet avis, le Cap.ne Cunningham nous fit, Monsieur, la plus vive sollicitations pour que nous le recommandations, à nos amys de S.t Sebastien, afin de pouvoir obtenir la Liberté de ses Marins, qui lui faisoit le plus grand vuide pour l'execution des projets qu'il avoit en vuë; & prennant en Consideration le bien qu'il en pouvoit resulter au Service de l'honnorable Congrès, nous Le recommandames de la maniere la plus pressante à M. M. de Larralde Diusteguy & fils de laditte Ville. ces Amys agirent si efficacement, qu'ils obtinrent que le Cap.ne Cunningham peût s'i presenter librement: que M.r

Le Marquis de Bancourt, eut pour luy, les Egards dûs a un officier au Service de l'honnorable Congrès; & finalement qu'il lui accordat la liberté de ses Marins, avec le plus ample Passeport pour se retirer a son Bord, sous sa simple parolle d'honneur que le Congrès garantiroit dans tous les temps les Evenements de Cette affaire.

Quoique elle fût Jugée Monsieur au Tribunal du Gouvernement de St. Sebastien déclarant la Prise pour mal faitte, les interessez l'ont porté par apellation au Suprême Conseil de Guerre, où le Capne. Letournois sollicite avec la plus grande ardeur, la Satisfaction de tous les Frais, dépends, interets, & dommages, qu'il fera surement monter a des sommes exhorbitan-tes, acriminant avec le fiel le plus amer, la Conduitte du Gouvernement de St. Sebastien, a son Egard, & s'éxprimant dans les termes les plus forts, sur la

(N° 230) To - Dr. Franklin {Imperfect & without date or Signature}

Libérté accordée aux Marins de Cunningham, & sur toutes les faveurs qu'il mérita. la Personne qui par le Credit de nos Amys de S.t Sebastien s'interessa dans l'heureuse réussite de la Cause de Cunningham, vient à se trouver Monsieur aujourdhuy, éxposé aux plus fâcheuses suittes paraport à la diffe[illegible]quée dont on en usa avec Cunningham, & ses Marins: elle a lieu de Craindre qu'on ne la rende résponsable au Conseil de Guerre, des suittes de la libérté qu'on leur accorda: le Contrecoup viendroit à retomber sur nous, & quand même, nous non aurions rien à Craindre, nous ne pourrions voir d'un Oeil indifferent éxposées à des suites si désagréables, des Personnes qui se sont si vivement interessées dans Cette affaire, en vertu de notre recommandation, qui n'avoit d'autre vüe que le bien du Service de L'honnorable Congrées, & nous ne

To S. Deane Esqr No ~~date~~ (No 274) A fac[t] an instance

My design is neither to offend or to please, to give you
pleasure or pain. ~~To serve by misrepresenting the particulars~~
~~misrepresented~~ It is, of importance to the public not to be deceived
in the character of their servants, that they may support the good
and disclaim the bad. Nor is it of less consequence that those
who wish to be called into great public trust should be well
understood, that no glare of extrinsic arising from accident should mislead
the judgment from a wise choice. You have brought to the bar of the
public your own and the characters of others, with design most
evidently to raise the former by destroying the latter. ~~The manner~~
~~in which you have~~. With respect to myself, as I mean that my actions
not my professions shall be the rule by which I am to be judged, so I
think it more generous to defend the absent than to ~~pursue~~ attend at present
to the many mistakes with which your letter to me in Advertiser
~~relates only to~~ ~~Lately upon the concernments of my own interests. The~~ ~~Defy~~ ~~you~~ ~~with~~ ~~you~~
of the Wounds. You have charged Mr. ~~[illegible]~~ (?) ~~to intend~~ ~~length~~ ~~which~~
~~the instance of incentatious~~ ~~insin~~ ~~the first moment~~ ~~you had notified~~ ~~him~~ to him his
~~Plane or refusing~~ ~~to France~~ ~~of~~ ~~Lee~~ ~~from its first institution~~ ~~in~~ 1777 ~~and~~ ~~endeavoured~~
~~which~~ ~~was~~ ~~of~~ 4 years ~~from~~ and you have
appointment ~~to~~ the Commercial Agency ~~to the present moment~~,
~~from its origin in 1774~~ to the present moment,
to render that delay the more culpable, as you informed him
yourself of the deranged state of our Com[l]. affairs and pressed
him to come immediately over and &c. Between you and Mr.
Lee the ~~public~~ public will judge - Mr. Lee writes me July 31.st 1777
thus "
and again in August the 12 following - If you or your friends
should not have all that confidence in these letters which I
think they deserve, you will not I presume object to the
testimony of Mr. John Ross whose enmity to Mr. Lee and friendship
for you must remove all suspicion from his evidence in this case
I have a copy of his letter to you at Paris dated from ~~Nantes~~
in which he writes thus - ~~for~~ Yet in your Address to the free and virtuous
Citizens of America (an ~~ill~~ artful appeal where truth and virtue
should surely guide the appellant) you say
and your charge ~~[illegible]~~ endeavour to render Mr. Lees affections
suspected by attributing his delay ~~to act~~ in coming to France,
and his not acting when there to his apprehension of injuring
&c - Again I say Mr. Deane, that the candid public will
judge between you & Mr. William Lee on this point. Your
next charge against the same gentleman is delay in going to Vienna
and ~~[illegible]~~ insinuate the operation of ambition and influence in
appointing Mr. Lee to the Commercial Agency and to political
appointments at the same time. We do not find that you discerned
any impropriety in ~~this~~ union when you yourself filled both characters!
~~ters~~! But the manner in which Mr. Lee thought on this subject
and, and his opinions that his acceptance of his Political ~~[illegible]~~
cancelled his Commercial appointment will appear most clearly
from his following letters. Here we see that from principle and
by determination Mr. Lee had detached himself

from his first and adherence to his latter appointment. That is previous to his proceeding to the execution of his political business it was necessary he should have a copy of the treaties (and you sir know that you were directed by Congress to furnish him with the copy) Delay on your side and the change of affairs in consequence of the success of the American Arms made it necessary that Mr. Lee should know the ~~[illegible]~~ solemnity and ~~[illegible]~~ the nature of our Alliance with France, in ~~order~~ to secure means and to guide the terms of any Treaty that ~~the~~ ~~Court~~ he might be able to make where he was going.

Thoughts in answer to Deane 1779
R. H. Lee.

(N°254) No date

Propositions que fait le sieur Lincoln, a Monsieur J.D. Schweighauser, pour l'affretement du Navire L'harmonie de Nantes du port de 250 Tonneaux jaugés ou environ, et en etat de Porter 200 Tonneaux en Poids au Tonneau de 2000 lb.

Le Navire sera Jaugé a Nantes avant le depart, par le Jaugeur de l'amirauté, et le fret Payé sur le Nombre de Tonneaux Jaugés, suivant le certifficat du Jaugeur,

1° ... on frettera le Navire pour aller et retour aux etats unis, et pour rester au premier port ou il abordera moyennant 275: Tournois par chaque Tonneaux jaugé, tonneau pour Tonneau, en payant 9000# Tournois en france d'avance. sur le fret avant le depart du Navire, lesquels seront acquis au Navire, qu'il soit pris ou perdu, et neamoins deduits sur le fret du au Retour du Navire, l'armateur aura La liberté d'Embarquer sans deduction de fret pour 4 a 5000# de marchandises pour subvenir aux depenses pendant le sejour aux Etats unis, et pour a faire revenir en march: par le navire aussi sans Deduction de fret ce qui luy restera aprés les depenses prelevées

2° — On frettera le Navire pour aller Seulement et sans avance a 200#: du tonneau Jaugé, payable un mois aprés La Nouvelle de Son arrivée dans un des ports des Etats unis le fret etant acquis au premier port ou il abordera

L'armateur ayant comme a la premiere proposition, la liberté de mettre pour 4 a 5000.# de Marchandises sans deduction de fret,

3°. On frettera le Navire pour aller seulement a 150.# du Tonneau Jaugé, en payant 6000.# d'avance qui seront acquis, soit que le Navire soit pris ou perdu, le restant du fret sera acquis au premier port des Etats unis ou le Navire abordera, et sera payé en france un mois aprés la connoissance de l'arrivée du Navire L'armateur ayant toujours la Liberté d'Embarquer pour 4 a 5000.# de Marchandises, sans deduction de fret

4°. On frettera encore le Navire, pour aller seulement au premier port des Etats unis ou il abordera à 100.# du Tonneaux Jaugé, acquis du moment du depart du Navire, que le navire soit pris ou perdu, et payable six mois aprés le depart du Navire, L'armateur pouvant embarquer pour 4 a 5000.# de marchandises sans deduction de fret

5°. On poura encore fretter le Navire pour aller seulement a 150.# du Tonneau Jaugé, payable aux etats unis au premier port des Etats unis ou il abordera, en bon Tabac sur le pied de dix Dollars le quintal Le Dollard estimé d'accord a 5.# Tournois

de maniere que par chacque 100.^t Tournois de fret
Du on Donnera 200^{lb} de Tabac, qui seront Livrés
deux mois aprés L'arrivée du Navire en Bordeaux
et Barils aux frais des fretteurs qui les feront
conduire sous le palan du Navire egalement
a Leurs frais, payant en outre les droits s'il y en a
L'armateur aura Toujours la Liberté d'Embarquer
pour 4 a 5000.^{tt} de Marchandises sans deduction
de fret

6.° " On frettera encore le Navire, pour aller et
retour en ne prenant rien pour aller, mais les d.
fretteurs s'obligeront de faire charger le navire
en plein dans deux mois au premier port des
etats unis ou Le Navire abordera, dans quelques
marchandises que ce soit, Dont le fret sera payé
au retour sur le pied de 8 sols Tournois par
chacque Livres de Marchandises poids net
que le Navire Livrera en france; Les fretteurs
s'obligeant de faire conduire les marchandises
sous le palan du Navire a Leurs frais, de d.
Deffrayer en outre le cap.^{ne} l'Equipage, et le
Navire pendant son sejour aux Etats unis,
L'armateur ayant toujours la Liberté d'Embarquer
Pour 4 a 5000.^{tt} de marchandises comme cy dessus.

(N°254)

1778 P. I

(No 266)

Once more my Dr. Sir Mrs. Lee looks up to you for your advice on the
inclosed. To be troubled with the solicitations of your Friends and Ac=
=quaintance, is a tax you must pay for great Abilities and a benevolent
Heart. With respect to one part of Mr. Page's Letter, I beg leave to observe,
that, when Tommy is once enter'd in the Grammar School, he must con=
=tinue there, till he has gone regularly thro' that School. Now this in
all probability may consume more time, than may be thought necessary
to expend, on classical learning alone; which appears to me to be the
Means, rather than the End of Knowlege. But this is intirely submitted
to your better judgement. Mrs. Lee of Stratford is anxious to have Col.
Bernard's Debt discharged, but fears that the Sales of Tobacco in Mr.
Hunter's Hands will be insufficient for that purpose. She refer'd
Mr. Lawson, who had a considerable sum of Money for the Estate, to
you: If Mr. Lawson be still in possession of the Money, and I have
your approbation and direction; I should be happy in contributing
any thing in my power, to settle the Affair, and will wait on Mr.
Lawson for that end. But there is still a difficulty: For altho' by
a Law of our state, the proportion of Currency that shall be neces=
=sary to discharge a Sterling Debt, be ascertain'd; yet I'm inform'd,
many People, still hold our Paper Money an unlawful Tender.
If it be an unlawful one I make no doubt of Col. B. availing
himself of it. There are disadvantageous reports of this sort circulating
here, of a Gentleman in power, whose Judgement in Money matters
is thought decisive. [Perhaps it may not be new to you, that
Nelson has 130,000£ voted, to raise, and accoutre, a regiment of

I fear it is but a Vote. The patriotic Mr. B—x—n is said, secretly, to be the General's adviser of the Quomodo, and probably had a principal Hand in settling the Quantum; and tho' proverbially speaking, two Heads are said to be better [than] one, yet in this instance I much question it will hold good. Mrs. St and the little ones are well.

I am Sir

with great respect &c

Wm. Steptoe

Pray offer my best wishes to Col. Loudon and his Lady.

Honble Richard Henry Lee Esquire

York Town

Pennsylvania

Wm Steptoe

(No 266)

Mr Wm Steptoe
to be answered
next Post—

Honble Richard Henry Lee Esquire
York Town
Pennsylvania

Steptoe Wm

Dates of the letters Nov: 19 Do 25 Decr 19
from Ct V. in the Ministers Communication.

That of ~~their~~ the 19 days of their treaty was not so forward as that of the Americans. tho if his My had wish'd it he cd have signed before the Amer: Plenepos as no essential difference existed between F. & G. B. But that the Kings delicacy induced him to wish that all his allies were first satisfyd & had accordingly resolved to continue the war whatever advantages might be offer'd him.

This Communication was made to Congress thro their M. for foreign Affairs on Wednesday March 26th. The complaint of the indelicacy of our Ministers & account of Dr. Franklin's begging pardon for them were entirely excluded

206

Decr 20th That peace was not yet concluded tho it was anxiously desir'd by the King. that his Majesty's obligations to his allies had not yet permitted him to pronounce with certainty as to the termination of the war.

That the Minister should however inform them, that he could not yet ~~inform them~~ determine whether they were on the eve of peace or if another campaign must be opened. In that of the 19th

it is said that it still remains to reconcile the interests of Spain & ~~Holland~~ that he had reason to believe in relation to the first that they w^d. soon be fully ~~[illegible]~~ settled that the foundation was already laid & that nothing now remaind but to settle forms.

~~No. 5~~ (217) 1

Sometime in march last Mr. Samuel Wharton informed me by Letter that he feared his Brother Joseph Wharton (who had lost near £10000 Sterling by the Bankruptcy of the House of Richard Ford &Co.) was disposed to endeavour to repair his Losses by insurances on Political Events, & that Mr. Thornton was as he suspected encouraging and misleading him into that Kind of Speculation –

A few weeks afterwards Mr. Austin informed me that Mr. Thornton had shewn him a Note of Hand for £500 Sterling Payable by Mr. Jos. Wharton to Mr. Thornton on Condition that War should be declared before a certain day in April; this Note I understood to have been Obtained by Mr. Thornton from Mr. Wharton as a Consideration for some intelligence which the Former had sold to the Latter; and I concluded that Mr. Wharton in order to have enabled himself to pay this Sum of £500 in case of War, must have given considerable Premiums upon the ground of Mr. Thorntons supposed valuable intelligence – About this time Mr. Joseph Wharton intimated to me in a Letter & under injunctions of Secrecy that he had found a most valuable channel of intelligence and as a proof of it mentioned that among other important Secrets he knew that a Certain Power had engaged "to declare War at farthest before the 1st. of May" – Soon after this a Letter sent me from Dr. Franklins with several others that were for me, and having hastily opened it, without attending to the Fictitious name it was addressed to, I found it to be a Letter from Mr. Joseph Wharton severely reproaching Mr. Thornton for having Cruelly led into heavy

heavy Losses by fallacious intelligence — Mr Thornton the next day sent for this Letter, describing the address, and I sent it with an excuse for having mistakenly opened it. At the same time from a motive of humanity wrote a Letter to Mr Joseph Wharton, importing that though I considered Mr Thornton as a well meaning man, I thought him an "indiscreet Chatterer" and so little informed of the Private intentions, or Transactions of men in Power, either here or any where else That in my Opinion it was not prudent in any body to risk money on his intelligence, nor honorable in him to take money for giving it — In answer to this Letter Mr Wharton wrote me on the 20th of April as follows

"In regard to Thornton I agree with you that he is a very "indiscreet Chatterer, and I have often wondered such a man "was entrusted with such State Papers, and so I do still. indeed "it is really wonderful! that such Copies of such Papers should be "taken and carried from Paris to London, from London to Portsmouth "&c &c; surely no good can come of this — And if he would shew "them to me, a Stranger to him, would he be less communicative "to others! My Lord North I should think would have given "£20000 for them — On the other hand if they were not real "and Official Papers what Character does the man deserve "who would use honorable names to sanctify perhaps his "dishonorable intentions."

Astonished at these Observations, and a Repetition of them afterwards in another Letter of May 15th which I cannot now find, I desired, by Letter that Mr

Mr. Wharton would give me some account of the State Papers here alluded to; and in consequence of this desire I received a letter dated the 1st. of June the Original of which will be herewith delivered. — I had no ill will towards Mr. Thornton; I certainly had wished to do him good & not harm: But after full reflection I could not but think it my Duty to Communicate this Letter to Dr. Franklin, I did so, & he thought it my duty likewise to Communicate it to the other Commissioners; I promised to do it, though I did not know, and am still uncertain whether Mr. Wharton might not blame my Proceeding thus far — a Journey into Flanders, & my hurry since that Journey, have retarded the Proposed Communication until the Present time.

In Answer to Mr. Wharton's Letter of the 1st. of June, I wrote that the Papers shewn to him by Mr. Thornton appeared to me to be forgeries, & forgeries which could not have been made with so much Art & pains, unless for a purpose of inconsiderable moment; and that I did not Conceive any purpose Mr. Th— could answer by them, unless it were to sell them to the British Ministry, or to dupe some persons into Insurances or other Gaming Speculations. — In reply to this Mr. Wharton wrote on the 16 of June as follows "Your last acknowledges the "receipt of my information respecting Thorn — & I am glad "you shewed it to the Old Gentleman. It is high time such "a Forgerer should be discarded: Your Conjectures are right; "He either must have used the Papers with Ministry or "employed them to Gull others. & in the Letter number 7

must

"must include myself; having suffered but too much by him"
This Constitutes the most important Charge against Mr. Thornton —— Reports of his imprudence have been Numerous – Capt. All & many others coming from England have repeated Conversations held by Mr. Thornton at Mr. Hartley's and in other places, Suited indeed to flatter the prejudices of Englishmen, but very unfit to be held by any man known to be employed by one of the American Commissioners; – There have been also accounts of indiscretions of another Nature – a Correspondent of mine wrote on the 12 of May as follows.

"Thornton arrived here again the 8th. instant in the Evening. His
"Friends or himself must surely be engaged in Stocks & insurances:
"He called on me this morning – and what was only doubtful before
"he arrived he makes certain by every where declaring that the
"Toulon Fleet are gone to America, under Orders to attack all English
"Vessels there – I think him an odd Character & connected as
"he is with Certain people here, I shall avoid him" –

Mr. Ridley & others in their Letters have enquired Concerning Mr. Thornton in terms which imply that they think his Language & Conduct extraordinary & suspicious –

Some time about the 20th. of May Mr. Samuel Wharton sent me the Copy of a Letter to him from Mr. Thornton desiring Mr. Wharton to discount a Bill which he said would

be

No. 5

be drawn by him on Mr. Grand for account of Arthur Lee Esqr.
That Mr. Lee's name could not indeed be mentioned in the Bill;
That he Mr. Thornton durst not take a bill for it from any Banker
in Paris on any Banker in London because that would
have blown all; but that he had been recommended for
supply's of money to a Mr. Bridgen who was gone to Bath.
&c — The Copy of this Letter was left with Dr. F.
& has not since been returned, or it would have been
Cited at Large. Mr. Wharton did not chuse to
discount Mr. Thornton's Bill, but in Compliment
to Mr. Lee he Lent Mr. Th— twenty Pounds or Gui-
nea's I forget which; and some weeks after, I
recd. from him, a Letter of which the Paper marked
No. 2 is a part & in the hand writing of Mr. Saml.
Wharton —

218

It can scarce be necessary for me to say that I
am actuated by no enmity towards Mr. Thornton
in this relation — I have entered on it reluctantly,
from a sense of Duty only, and after delays which
~~which~~ a mind influenced by ill will or resentment would not have permitted to take place —

Account General &c &c (Explanation of the first page—)

No. 1 on Acct. of the Sloop Dolphin

No. 2 for Allowance on the purchase of the Magazine and on Money advances for the Expenses thereof

3 for the Bills on the Sloop Dolphin when at Havre repairg

4 the first Vessel equipp'd at Dunkerque

5. to Mr. Deanes Acct. of Expences

6.

7 to be Accounted for in Mr. Williams's Settlement

8 On acct. of the Clothing

9 to be Accounted for by Mr. Williams in Settlement

10 & 11 the Equipments at Dunkerque

12. 13. 16. 17. 20. 21. 26. 28. 32. 35. 40. 42. 45. 46. 47. in page 1st. To be Accounted for in Mr. Williams's Settlement

14 Mr. Franklin ~~to~~

15 on Acct. of the Clouthing

18 Mr. Lee

19 for Horses for Messrs. Franklin & Deane

22 Mr. Deane

23 on Acct of Goods purchased for the President of the Congress

24 on Acct. of the Clouthing NB. this & the two former were the Money advanced for making up the Suits

25 for Shoes. 27 Bills drawn by Mr. Catalan & indorsed by Capt. Bell, which should have been paid by Mr. T Morriss 29. 38 & 41 in the 1st. page for the repairs of Capt. Johnson Brig Lexington, for Moneys advanced to Capt. Cleveland, to pay the Expences of the Goods of Merkle, & other Advances as ℘ his Acct. will appear

30. Money advanced towards the Fusees shipp'd in the Flammard, or Heureuse at Marseilles. — 35 to Mr. Reed who came over express. —

33 Mr. Deane 34 to the same Mr. Read as above 36 for Hols 37. 38 the 2400 Livr. repaid 696. his expences bringing dispatches

Grand the
Banker's Acct
of the public Mo

Prix Courant de Draqueries a Marseille le

Aloes Hépatique 35
dit en couppes 30
dit Caballin 24
dit Cicotrin beau 55
Agnus Castus 35
Acassia Vera 50
Agaric d'holande 35 Levant 70
Anacardes 35
Assafoetida 35
Azarum 15
Ambregris l'once 2 ... 6
Arsenic 6 jaune
Amomum 5
Antimoine 7
Acorus verus 35
Angelique de Boheme 30
Argent vif 3 5
Aristoloches rondes et longues 9
dittes Tenvis 15
Ametystes 6
Azur 14 a 16
Anis d'Espagne 4
dit de Milan
dit de Malthe
Alun de plume 2
Alun de Rome 24
dit en ecailles
dit du Levant
Amandes en Sorte
dittes a la main
dittes ameres
Beaume du Perou 8 10
dit en Coque 12
dit de la Meque 20
dit de Copau 45
Bois Nephretique 6
d'Aloes 10
de Rose 30
de Gayac 5
Bol fin 4
Borax 3
Bitume de Judée
Blanc de plomb
Balaustes 24
Benjoin 3 10 4 en larmes 5
Bistorte 20
Bezoards l'once 50 orientale 80
Baleine assortie
Cinabre en pierre 4 10
dit broyé 4 10
Ceruze 25 a 26 10%
Camphre 4 10
Canelle fine 12
ditte Matte 28
ditte geroflée 20
Colle de poisson a livret 4
a fer de cheval ordinaire 3
outre mer 6 l'once

dit a fer de Cheval 4 a 10
Cotton filé de Malthe
Cocus Blanc 18
dit Amanus 3 10
dit Verus dulcis 4
Cacao de Caraque
dit des Isles
Calamus aromaticus 10
Cevadillé 3
Ceracolle
Cassia lignea
Casse 30
Cachoux 5
Contrayerva 25
Coques du Levant
Cubebes 40
Corail rouge 1
dit blanc
Creme de tartre 12
Cantharides 6
Castore 1
Craye de Briançon
Colloquinte
Carmin l'once 14
Curcuma 25
Caffé du Levant ... 20 m
dit des Isles
Chaquerille 30
Cumin 8
Coraline 10
Carabé jaune 45
dit Blanc 4
Calcythie 50
Cendres bleues 6
Coudregoravelles
Cardamomum major
dit Minor 12
Catapucia minor
Carpobalsamum 4 10
Crocusmetallorum 22
Cochenille 20
Corne de Cerf rapée
Cotton en laine d'Acre
dit de Smyrne
dit filé fin d'once
dit Baza
dit Jerusalem
Dattes 8
Dictam
Ecorce d'Autour
de Gayac 7
de Saxafras
de Grenade 7
Epitom 40
Enula Campana 30
Jalapp 50 Sagou 30

Euphorbe 15
Encens en Sorte 10
Elebore 15
Emeraudes 2
Esquine
Etain de glace 32
Eponges fines lavées ... 12
dit communes lavées 22 a 24
Fleurs de Souffre 2
d'Esquinanthe
de Violettes
Folium Indum
Folicules de Senné
Fenouil
Fragmenti pretiosi l'once
Grabeau de Myrrhe
d'Encens
de Senné 18
de Quina
Gingembre 10
Galanga 10
Gentianne 15
Graine d'Avignon 10 a 1...
d'Ambrette 6
de Kermes 7
Gomme Armoniac 48
Elemy fine 22
Arabique 16
Copalle 45
Gutte 11
Serapine 3
Caragne 6
Hederée 4
Tacamaqua 5
Bedelium 10
Opoponax 7
Adragant 44
Laque en grains 5
Laque en feuilles 40
Galbanum 4
Animée 4
Grenats fins ...
Geroffles ...elle 15
Galles d'Alep
dittes noires ... 40
dittes blanches
dittes d'Acre ... 8 l'once
Hermodattes 15
Hypocistis 20
Huile de Muscade 22
d'Aspic 15
de Laurier
de Petrolle blanche 3
de Petrolle noire
Huile de vittriol 20
Esprit de vittriol 20

N.B. The English Hundred makes here 122 at Marseilles. 12 English Ounces the pound.

233

bleus de p... fb 9 12
ditte moyenne
ditte claire Lampante
Hyacinthes fines 15
dittes communes 15
Jalap
Jus de reglisse 10
Jaune de Naples 14
Jujubes
Jonc odorant 4
Indigo
Inde platte 22
Iris 10
Ipecaquana
Labdanum
Laque platte
ditte en lentilles
Litarge
Lapis la Zuli
Amatithes
Sanguinaris 6
Mine 5
Myrrhe en Sorte 36
dite en larmes 5
Mastic en sorte
dit en larmes 3
Mumie 30
Musc l'once 26
Mechoacan 15
Mirabolans assortis 20
Manne Calabre 30 32 34
de Sicile 37
en larmes 4
Macis 18
Mercure doux 7
Muscades
Marum
Nacres de perle 45 nette
Noix vomiques 20
Opiom
Os de cœur de Cerf les 100
Orpiment en pierre 13
dit broye
Oculicancri 45
Orcanette 24
Persil de Macedoine 6
Pignons doux 4
Pirettre 10
Poivre en balle
blanc
Geroffle
Long 45
de Guinée
Perles Fines l'once 5 orientale 36
Paille de Squinante 30
Pareira brava 24
Plomb de mer 10
Pierre Marine 20

Pieds d'Elan 24 piece
Pierre d'Aimant 20
d'Emerie 5
Calaminaire 15
Judaïque 4
Polipode 15
Precipité rouge 7 blanc 10
Polium montanum 16
Porcelaines
Quina fin grabellé 7
Rezine de Gayac
de Jalap
de Scamonée
Rapure d'Yvoire
de Corne de Cerf 10
de Gayac
Rocour 14 lab.
Rubarbe de Levant
de Moscovie
de la Chine 5 10
Rapontic
Reglisse en bo... 8 %
Racine de genseng l'once
Riz du Levant 16
Rubis
Serpentine de Virginie 3
Santal Citrin 4
Rouge 6
Blanc 10
Sandarac 18
Storax en pain 55
En larmes 10
Liquide 24
Simarouba 40
Sang dragon fin 4 ... 5
dit commun
Sang de Bouquetin 4
Scille de Storax 16
Scamonée d'Alep 18
dit de Smyrne 12 a 15
Salsepareille en turban 4
dit en fagot d'Honduras 3
dit de Portugal
Semen Contra ... commun 20
Spica nardi fin 12 commun 25
Semences froides
Sel Armoniac raffiné 42
Gemme
de Saturne
de Tamaris
d'Angleterre 5
Sonné de la Palte 38
dit d'Alep
Sublimé 5
Semence Ancos 15
Sizelees 15
Lin 16

Semence daucus 4
ditte de Ben 16
Saxafras 25
Sanguine 6
Sperma Ceti 50
Souffre vif 2
dit en Canon 2
Saffran 26
Spodium 35
Safranum
Sebestes
Sirop de Roses 30
Sthocas arabique 12
Staphisagria 20
Savon 32 ...
Sucres assortis
Tamarins
Terebentine fine 18
dit de Chio 30
Tutie 35
Tarbit 30
Thé vert ...
Thé boue
Tormentille
Terre Sigillée
Terre verte
Terre d'ombre
Topases 20
Tournesol en pain 16
dit en Chiffe
Talc de Venise 20
Verre d'Antimoine 24
Verdet 150 %
Vitriol de Chipres 14
dit Blanc
Vanilles 6 l'once
Viperes Sechées 35 ... 12
Xilo balsamum 6
Zedoria 40
pierres de ponces platte 3 %
Amsterdam vert distillé 5 10
Londres vert de vessie 5
Madrid essence de fenelle 48 la
Gennes essence de Rhodes 24 l'on
Livourne essence de geroffles 5 l'on
Paris à Uz huile Danis 20 la lb
A Usé
Valence baume marie 5
Cadix beaume de Tolu 6
Pistolles d'Espagne
Sequins Venitiens
magnesie blanche 4
tr... bre natturel 16
fleurs de fenelle 55
fleurs de benzoin 7 l'once
miels de narbonne 22

Exports of Marseilles proper for the North American Markets

Powder and all kinds of Martial Stores and Ammunition

Woollen Goods of all kinds and qualities

Brandies of all the various proofs

Common red or White Wines from 10 a 12 pr millerole of 19½ Galls. Eng.

White or marbled Soaps far superior to any others made elsewhere. their prices are at present very high. being at £32 pr quintal or 8th English of about 90 English the White and £31 pr do. the marbled without disco.

fine eating Oils superior to those of Florence £50 pr qu

Cotton Stockings from 12 a 48 pr doz

Silk do. from 72 a 288 pr do.

Thread do. as in quality

Womens & Mens Sale Shoes Womens £2.10 Mens £3.. } pr pair

Silk Umbrellas

Linens

Silks & Sattins

Hardware

Cambricks & Clear Lawns

Stationary

Delph Ware

Epsom Salts £25 pr q.

Muslins

Gold and Silver Laces

Hats felt & Beaver

Medicinal Drugs of all kinds as pr particular list

Sulphur in rolls best 7.10 pr Quintal

Do. in Barrells for powder 6.10, pr Quintal

Salt loaded at the
Isle St. Pierre of Sardigne
costs about one Sol per
pound.
A vessel of 160 ton & 8 Cannon included
be bought at Marseilles for 1000.tt

MARSEILLE

marseille

A Monsieur
Monsieur Le Chevalier Lambert Banquier
Pour Mr. Etienne Cathalan fils
de marseille

à Paris

178

1)

His Britannic Majesty's Commissioners have proclaimed to the world a resolution on the part of their Nation to carry the war they are now waging against the United States of America to its utmost extremes and of desolating wherever they can reach. When the sole object of war is devastation, & the conduct of it unlimited & undistinguishing destruction, it is the war of savages. The people who commence such a war trample upon those laws which distinguish civilized from savage Nations, & the mild aras of Christianity from the ferocious ages of barbarous infidelity. All the powers & people of Europe have a right to know the facts from which they may judge who they are that have thus violated the established laws of war which are at once their honor & their security.

It is for this purpose that the following

following authentic pieces are laid before them. The conclusion from them is inevitable. The principle upon which the governing powers of the United States & those of Great Britain have acted are as opposite as light & darkness. The barbarities of the one are unparalleled the lenity & forbearance of the other unexampled. As long as Charity itself could impute the licentious & inhuman acts which stained their arms, to the unauthorized intemperance & cruelty of Individuals, retaliation was forborne. But when a public & solemn avowal of such practices, as the sole purpose of the war, by those who are vested with plenary powers, had adopted & authorized these cruelties, it became the indispensable duty of Congress to restrain their impious hands by the terror of retaliation. Hitherto the United States have been contending for their own liberties, they are now

now to fight the Battles of humanity & of Nations.

Resolved in Congress at Philadelphia
Jan.y 2d 1776

"Whereas the execrable barbarity with which this unhappy war has been conducted on the part of our Enemies, such as burning our defenceless towns & villages, exposing their Inhabitants, without regard to age or sex, to all the miseries which loss of property, the rigour of the season & inhuman devastation can inflict, exciting domestic insurrections & murders; bribing the Savages to desolate our frontiers; & casting such of us as the fortune of war has put into their power into goals there to languish in irons & want, compelling the Inhabitants of Boston, in violation of the treaty to remain confined within the town exposed to the insolence of the Soldiery & other enormities at the name of which decency

&,

(4)

humanity will forever blush, may justly provoke the inhabitants of these Colonies to Retaliation" Resolves

"That it be recommended to them to continue mindful that humanity ought to distinguish the brave — that cruelty should find no admission among a free people & to take care that no page in the annals of America ~~may~~ be stained by a recital of actions which justice or Christianity may condemn, & to rest assured that whenever retaliation may be necessary or tend to their security, this Congress will undertake the disagreeable task."

In return for their generous conduct those in authority under the British government continued their insults & their barbarities & at length his Britannic Majesty's Commissioners who had proclaimed that they came on purpose "to treat, consult & agree upon the means

of

of quieting the disorders subsisting in "America" issued a Manifesto on the 3d of October 1778 which contains the following most extraordinary passage

"But if there be any persons who divested of mistaken resentments & uninfluenced by selfish interests, really think that it is for the benefit of the Colonies to seperate themselves from Great Britain & that so seperated, they will find a Constitution more mild, more free & better calculated for their prosperity, than that which they have heretofore enjoyed & which we are empowered and disposed to renew & improve; with such persons we will not dispute a position which seems to be sufficiently contradicted by the experience they have had. But we think it right to leave them fully aware of the change which the maintaining such a position must make in the whole nature & conduct of this war; more especially when to this position is added

the pretended alliance with the Court of France — the policy as well as the benevolence of Great Britain have thus far checked the extremes of war when they tended to distress a People still considered as our fellow subjects & to desolate a Country shortly to become again a source of mutual advantage. But when that Country professes the unnatural design not only of estranging herself from us, but of mortgaging herself & her resources to our Enemy the whole contest is changed; & the question now is how far great Britain may by every means in her power destroy or render useless a connection contrived for her ruin & for the aggrandizement of France. Under such circumstances the laws of self preservation must direct the conduct of Great Britain, & if the British Colonies are to become an accession to France will direct her to render that accession of as little avail as possible to her Enemy." The treaty which formed

this

this connection with France was before the Eyes of these Commissioners, for it had long before been published in America. The wit of man cannot frame any thing more opposite to any intention of a mortgage to France or ruin to Great Britain, than the declared principles on which that treaty is founded. Yet in despight of this evidence the Commissioners did not hesitate to Affirm an untruth & to justify upon that untruth their resolution of desolating & destroying the United States with the utmost extremes of war. The principles which form the connection between the United States & France are thus announced in the first article of the treaty signed at Paris on the 6th day of Feby 1778. by the respective Plenepotentiaries Conrad Alexandre Gerard, Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane & Arthur Lee — "Sa Majesté très Chrétienne et les dits Etats Unies, ont jugés ne pouvoir mieux atteindre a ce but, qu'en prenant pour base de leur arrangement l'egalité & la reciprocité

ciprocité la plus parfaite, & en observant d'éviter toutes les préférences onéreuses, source de discussions, d'embarras & de mécontentements, de laisser à chaque partie la liberté de faire, relativement au commerce, et à la navigation, les réglemens intérieurs qui seront à sa convenance, de ne fonder les avantages du commerce, que sur son utilité réciproque, et sur les loix d'une juste concurrence, & de ~~conserver~~ conserver ainsi de part & d'autre la liberté de faire participer, chacun selon son gré, les autres Nations aux mêmes avantages. C'est dans cet esprit que lesdits Plenipotentiaires respectifs, après l'échange de leurs pleins pouvoirs, et après mure déliberation, ont conclu et arrêté les articles suivants."

It is impossible that the judgement of the british Commissioners could have been so perverted as to mistake a treaty disclaiming all undue preference or monopoly & reserving a communication of every advantage it contains to all Nations, for a connection contrived

for the

for the ruin of Great Britain & the aggrandizement of France. Convinced at length of the impossibility of reclaiming the British Government from its cruel manner of carrying on the war, convinced of the inefficacy of examples of ~~long~~ lenity & long forbearance, & finding the worst of purposes justified upon the falsest pretences — Congress were compelled to hold forth the terrors of retaliation. On this ground they issued the following Manifesto.

"These United States having been driven to hostilities by the oppressive & tyrannous measures of Great Britain, having been compelled to commit the essential rights of man to the decision of arms. & having been at length forced to shake off a yoke which had grown too burthensome to bear — they declared themselves free & independent.

Confiding in the justice of their cause confiding in him who disposes of human

events

events altho weak & unprovided they set the power of their Enemies at defi-ance

In this confidence they have continued through the various fortunes of three bloody campaigns unawed by the power unsubdued by the barbarity of their foes. Their virtuous citizens have borne without repining the loss of many things which make life desirable. Their brave troops have patiently endured the hardships & dangers of a situation fruitful in both beyond former example."

"The Congress considering themselves bound to love their Enemies as children of that being who is equally the father of all, & desirous since they could not prevent at least to alleviate the calamities of war have studied to spare those who were in arms against them & to lighten the chains of captivity."

"The conduct of those serving under the king of Great Britain hath with some few exceptions been diametrically opposite.

They

They have laid waste the open Country burnt the defenceless villages & butchered the citizens of America. Their prisons have been the slaughter houses of her Soldiers — their Ships of her Seamen & the severest injuries have been aggravated by the grossest insults.

Foiled in their vain attempt to subjugate the unconquerable spirit of freedom they have meanly assailed the Representatives of America with bribes with deceit & the servility of adulation. They have made a mock of religion by impious appeals to God whilst in the violation of his ~~most~~ sacred commands. They have made a mock ~~[illegible]~~ of reason itself by endeavoring to prove that the liberty & happiness of America could safely be entrusted to those who have sold their own unawed by the sense of virtue or of shame. Treated with the contempt which such conduct deserved they have applyed to Individuals

-dividuals. They have sollicited them to break the bonds of allegiance & imbrue their souls with the blackest of crimes. But fearing that none would be found through these United States equal to the wickedness of their purpose to in-fluence weak minds they have threat-ened more wide devastation.

While the shadow of hope remained that our Enemies could be taught by our ex-ample to respect those laws which are held sacred among civilized Nations, & to comply with the dictates of a reli-gion which they pretend in common with us to believe & revere, they have been left to the influence of that religion & that example. But since their incorrigible dispositions cannot be touched by kindness & compassion it becomes our duty by other means to vindicate the rights of humanity."

"We therefore the Congress of the United States

United States of America do solemnly declare & proclaim — that if our Enemies presume to execute their threats &, persist in their present career of barbarity we will take such exemplary vengeance as shall deter others from a like conduct. We appeal to that God who searcheth the hearts of men for the rectitude of our intentions & in his holy presence we declare that as we are not moved by any light or hasty suggestions of anger or revenge, so through every possible change of fortune we will adhere to this our determination.

Done in Congress by unanimous consent the 30th Day of October 1778

(Signed) H. Laurens

Att. Charles Thomson Secty

It remains now to see whether the contempt & indignation of all America

America the reprobation of all Europe the apprehensions of their own subjects & the horrors of exemplary retribution will restrain the British Government from perpetrating the impious work they meditate. If anger & revenge should still impel them to the sanguinary extremes they menace, they alone will stand accountable to God & man for the most calamitous consequences. More than ten thousands of their troops are in our power, their possessions are vulnerable in a thousand places, their Island itself cannot be protected from the extremes of desolation; & they who thus cry havoc & let slip the dogs of war will find it visited upon themselves with ten fold vengeance.

(Copy) Wm Lee's observations on the conduct of Franklin, Dean & Williams

"Monsieur.

Nous avons l'honneur de vous annoncer
"l'arrivé du Corsaire le Montgomery de Maryland Capne. Burnel
"qui a conduit en ce port un navire de Guernsey venant de Rot-
"terdam avec un chargement de Genéure. Ces deux Navires sont
"entré dans notre bassin de ce matin. Le Capne. nous a partici-
"pé son intention de vouloir faire faire la vente de ce navire en
"cette ville, mais nous y trouvons un obstacle par les ordres du Mi-
"nistre en datte du 13 Janvier dernier addressé a Messrs. les
"Officiers de notre amarauté portant de ne laisser sejourner
"que 24 heures tout Navire qui arrivera dans nos ports
"avec une prisse ce qui est conformé a l'ordonnance de la
"Marine article 14 des prises. Dans cette circonstance nous
"avons conseillé au Capne. Burnel de prendre la poste, pour
"se rendre auprès de vous Monsieur, a fin de Solliciter un
"ordre du Ministre pour faire la vente de sa prisse et de
"la cargaison, dautant plus que ce navire n'est pas en etat
"d'être conduit a l'Amerique et que s'il ont est obligés de
"le faire sortir de notre port, il court risque d'être pris
"avec sa prisse. Nous avons l'honneur de vous offrir
"nos services pour les affaires de notre Commerce que nous suivons
"avec tout le zele et exactitude desirables. Nous avons l'honneur
"d'être avec respect Monsieur Notre tres humble et Obeissant
"a Cherbourg ce 6th. Juin 1777. Serviteurs, V Du Longprey Coneuf & fils
"a Monsieur le Docteur Franklin a Paris."

(a). One cannot help observing here on this passage in the above Letter, how very quickly the British Ministry had Intelligence of all the proceedings in France relative to America, even when the strict-est injunctions of Secresy were given by Congress & the Committees. Doctor Franklin arrived in Paris in Decr. 1776. He came to

France

France in the first Congress Arm'd vessel that had appear'd in their Ports & brot with him the very first Idea of Congress or the Committee of making Prizes on the Enemy in the European Seas to be sold in the French Ports. The most profound Secresy was enjoin'd by the Secret Committee in the management of this plan, that the success might be insured by the Enemys being attack:ed in a quarter & in a Manner that they did not suspect; yet we find the British Ministry had information of it ~~timely~~ early enough to apply on the subject to the French Ministry & get this order so very soon as the 13th: of Jany 1777.

Let Mr. Deane & his partizans account properly for this, if they can.

---

6 Copy of Doctor Franklins answer to the foregoing Letter from Messrs Du Songprey Coney et fils.

"Messrs"

Paris ce 11, Juin 1777

"J'ay reçu la Lettre que vous m'avez fait l'hon:
"neur de m'ecrire pour m'annoncer l'arrivée dans votre
"port du Corsaire le Montgomery Capt: Burnel avec une
"prise Angloise chargée d'esprit de Genievre. L'usage
"en pareil cas Messieurs, est de declarer le Navire en relache,
A "et quelque fois sous un nom supposé, on annonce sans
"bruit la vent du Navire et des Marchandises à ceux à qui
"cela peut convenir, et quant on est convenu de prix, l'armateur
"livre sa prise hors du port ou dans un port voisin à ceux à
"elle est vendue, c'est Messieurs, ce que je vous prie de faire,
"et au cas que la Nature de Chargement en rendit la vent
"impossible a Cherbourg, vous pourrez Messieurs, envoyer un
"ou deux barques chargés dans le port ou le Capne fera
"conduire cette prise d'après vos conseils, et addressée à

Mr

"Monsieur Mont à Dunkerque les generaux. Si vous ne
"trouvez pas des acquireurs pour le Navire vous pourez
"envoyer avec un equipage francais a Monr. Williams Corres-
"pondent du Congres a Nantes qui s'en (B) chargera. Je vous
"demande, Messieurs, la continuation de vos soins pour tout ce
"qui peut interesser l'affaire actuelle et celles qui pourront
"survenir. J'ay l'honneur &c".

(A) There was publish'd in the American Gazettes in May or June 1778. An Extract of a Letter said to be written from Versailles to Mr. Holker relative to the two West Indiamen The Hanover Planter & Clarendon brot into Nantes as prizes in Augt. 1777 by Captns. Babson & Kindrick, which had been seized by Orders from the French Court & restor'd to the English, which seizure is therein said to have been made because of the prizes having been enter'd under false Names — when this letter of Dr. Franklins shows, that such mode of entering prizes in the ports of France was the practice long before, which is indeed the Truth, for before Augt. 1777 — several prizes had been enter'd in the Port of Nantes as well as other Ports, which had been sold as well as their Cargoes. Perhaps more may be said on this subject on another occasion. —

(B) Here is positive proof of Doctr. Franklins, being concern'd with Mr. Deane in the scheme of making Mr. Williams Commercial Agent, for Mr. Deane acknowleges his receiving a notification in Febry. 1777. that the Secret Comee. of Congress had appointed Wm. Lee & Thos. Morris Esqrs. their Coml. Agents which it can hardly be supposed he conceal'd from Dr. Franklin therefore they must have united in superceeding the Secret Committees appointment

(4)

(Copy)

"To the Honble Silas Deane Esq.

"Dear Sir

"Nantes March 26. 1778.

"I recd. yr. favor of the 21st. instant & observe "that my drafts will (A) continue to be accepted. It wd. be "less troublesome to you & more beneficial to my credit if "you woud give Mr. Grand a general approbation (a); for if every "draft is to lay unaccepted till Mr. Grand can have an opportu: "nity of presenting them to you the holder will not have a very "good opinion of my Solidity, & ~~I suppose~~ Mr. Grand I suppose "will not in future accept till after the Bills are present: "ed for he has written, I suppose a dozen times to me desiring "your (B) approbation of what has already been ~~done~~ drawn "over the establish'd credit (C). Your accounts have been "transmitted compleat to Capt. Dunn (D), & I suppose must "by this time be recd. —— When I come to Paris I shall bring "or send up by the Messagerie a couple suits of Mr. Montieus —— "Cloaths, as I have now the Grammont to reload, I do not ex: "pect to be with you these three Weeks, & indeed but for the "pleasure of seeing you, & settling my accts. I had rather not "come at all, for my private finances are not flourishing "enough to allow a waste of time & money in your extrava: "gant City (E.) —— As to the affairs of the Prizes, I think the "best way wd. be to settle with Commissioners for 50,000 Livres "& if it is approv'd I will charge the accepted bill to them as so "much remitted. I wrote to Mr. Chaumont last post to this "purpose & proposed the same measure (F). —— I heartily "congratulate you on the late favorable ~~measure~~ turn of our

affairs

"Affairs. How are the mighty fallen! England now almost demands our
"pity & if the distress was occasion'd by misfortunes only she w^d. have
"a right to it, but her folly & wickedness meet their reward.

"What you write about my friend Carmichael distresses
(G) "me, it w^d. shock me too if I did not think you were somehow or other im=
":posed on, indeed I cannot believe him guilty of such baseness. I have
"long had a very great esteem for him, & I have cultivated his friend=
":ship because I tho't him a man of a generous heart, liberal mind
"& high sentiments of honor & honesty. I have always wish'd to
"possess your friendship for the same reasons, & this makes me
"more concern'd at your difference. He liv'd with me ab^t. a
"month & if he was of that malignant disposition I think I
"shou'd have discover'd it, more especially as he was very
"communicative to me as a confidential friend, & I think I am
"sure that when you go to America you will find that he has never
"tryed to injure you. I write freely because I know you think
"liberally. I can't give up my friend easily, but I [illegible] wou'd
"desert even my Father if I was convinced he was a Rascal (H.)

"What you say relative to the representation of my appoint-
":ment, I wish I had proof of — but tho' I judge slowly, I never
"will put up with an injury to my Character. The late M^r. M. gave
"me his word & honor that he never did directly or indirectly
"write a syllable to my prejudice. On my return to Nantes, I exacted
"& obtain'd the same satisfaction from P. this quieted me for without
"proof I cou'd say no more. —— The narration you desire
"I will give you with pleasure, but as I think the effect will be hurt=
":ful by its being address'd to you as if done at y^r. desire, I will
"write it in a Letter to D^r. F— & he will give it to you (I)

"I never thought I shou'd be really disgraced on Acc^t. of your
"recall, (K) so far the contrary that I hope & believe it will in the end
"turn out a flattering circumstance to you & no disadvantage to my=
":self —— [illegible]

"-self, but when calumny is loose it always hurts for a time
" even the purest characters. I will not conceal your Enemies—
" from you when I hear any thing to your prejudice, my connection
" with you being known in a great measure prevents this.

(Signd) J. Williams Jr.

Remarks on the foregoing letter, the whole of wch is Copied that the reader may judge in some measure for himself, even without the aid of farther Information.

(a). It is necessary to mention, that during the Spring & Summer of 1777. Mr. Williams was imployed to lay out at Nantes, very considerable sums of the Public money by Dr. Franklin & Mr. Deane while the Commercial Agents appointed by the Secret Committee of Congress Wm Lee & Thos Morris Esq^rs were both there & not permitted to touch a single Livre; therefore, having no money—those Agents coud not comply with the orders of the S. Com^e about sending out Goods. Added to this, Dr. Franklin & Mr. Dean order-ed Mr. Williams to take the sale of prizes made by Continental arm'd Vessels out of the hands of the Committees Agents as has been fully stated in Mr. W. Lees reply to Mr. Deane that has been transmited to Congress. In the Fall 1777. The Commissioners gave Mr. Williams Credit on Mr. Grand the Public Banker for, Five hundred Thousand Livres.

after this 500000 Livres were expended, Mr. Williams continues to draw on the Public Banker, & Mr. Deane on the 21st of March 1778. Tho' no longer a Commissioner (as he confesses having receiv'd the 4th of that Month, the resolve of Congress, displacing & recall-ing him) tells Mr. Williams the public money shall be at his disposal without any Limitation. Mr. Williams however does not appear Satisfied with this, but applys to Mr. Deane solely for his General Approbation being given to Mr. Grand, for all the drafts of Mr. Williams, as being more beneficial to his Credit. Thus the Public Funds & Public Credit, are to be employed by Mr.

Deane

Diane, who had then no authority over either, for the benefit of the Private Credit of Mr. Williams, an Individual, who had never been imployed by Congress or any of the Committees in any manner.

(B.) This shows, that Mr. Diane was supposed by the Writer & Mr. Grand the Public Banker to have the sole command of the Public Funds, tho' he was only one out of three Commissioners, when he had any authority at all.

~~(C)~~ (C) Proof that Mr. Williams had taken upon himself to draw on the Public Funds, without any authority.

(D) This is supposed to refer to some private adventure, as I never heard of a Capt. Dunn, in the Public service.

(E) Mr. Williams's Acct. render'd in June 1778 to the American Comrs. at Paris, will show how greatly his Private finances had been benefited; & besides, if I am not mistaken, ~~besides the~~ exclusive of traveling expences, he charges the Public, A Guinea for every day, he staid at Paris; tho' he lodged at Mr. Chaumonts where it can't be supposed he paid for his lodgings, & might have Breakfasted, Din'd & Sup'd every day with His Uncle & Mr. Adams, the Houses being only seperated by the Common Garden.

(F) The two West Indiamen prizes brot into Nantes by Capts. Babson & Kendrick in Augt. 1777 have been before mention'd. The Sale of them was by the Capts. intrusted to Mr. Wm. Lee, Mr. Williams & Mr. Pinet – when they were seiz'd by order of the French Government, Mr. Williams went up to Paris to endeavor to get the ~~French Government~~ American Commissioners to intercede with the French Government to release them. He staid in Paris abt. a month & in going down to Nantes he miss'd Mr. Lee on the road, & they never met since, but tho' Mr. Lee has written many Letters to Mr. Williams on the subject, he never cou'd get any information from him, what he did at Paris about the business, nor wou'd he ever mention whom he had appointed to act for him in the business

ness, nor consent to Mr. Lee's acting in it, when he got to Paris. Mr. Lee applyed often on the subject personally to Doctor Franklin & Mr. Deane from whom he could not get any more information, than by his writing to Mr. Williams, nor did he ever know how it had ended untill he saw in an American paper dated May or June 1778 an Extract of a Letter from Versailles to Mr. Holker saying that he was to pay the parties concern'd £[illegible] for those two prizes. It appears now that the French Ministry had agreed soon after the first application to give the proprietors of the prizes as far as 50000 Livres, which Mr. Chaumont was to pay to Mr. Williams's dft, afterwards when it was determin'd to enter into a Treaty with America, the French Ministry agreed to pay £40000 which was supposed to be the full value of the two prizes. Mr. Holker at that time going privately to America on some private plan of business concerted at Passy, which was to be of great advantage to the parties concern'd, who were supposed to be Mr. Chaumont (Doctr. Franklin, Mr. Deane, Mr. Holker, his Father &c &c &c, in order to give him great Eclat, it was settled, as supposed with Mr. Gerard, that Mr. Holker shd. carry with him the glad tidings of authority to pay this money in America. This transaction is of a piece with all the other conduct of these Gentlemen & is one proof among many others, of the real causes that unite them together & why they bedaub one another so with Compliments & praises.

The whole however was then conceal'd from Mr. Lee, tho' both Dr. Franklin & Mr. Deane knew he was equally concern'd with Mr. Williams in that business; & Mr. Lee particularly remembers speaking to Mr. Deane, after Mr. Holker saild for America, & desiring to know whether the French Ministry wou'd, or wou'd not pay for the prizes, when Mr. Deane said that Mr. Chaumont had been soliciting the business at Versailles but without success. Then £50000 mention'd by Mr. Williams here, are those which the French Ministry had agreed to pay as above mention'd

mention'd in 1777. Mr. Williams according to his plan here did actually charge these £50000 to the Public, as a remittance made by him ~~to the Commiss.~~ from Nantes to the Commissioners at Paris, in the very same Acct. & at the same time when he is charging the Public a Discount for carrying money from Paris to Nantes; or in other words, for the difference of Excha. in favor of Nantes against Paris for the Bills he drew to pay at Nantes the engage:ments he had made for the Public. Upon Mr. Williams's Accts. being given in, Mr. Arthur Lee desir'd to know where the £50000 were & to whom they were remitted as he had never heard anything of them, at the same time mention'd how extraordinary it appear:ed that Mr. W. sd. remit to the Comrs. when he was perpetually drawing on them & charging a discount on those drafts. To this, Mr. Williams replys in the following words. "This is "a remittance made by Mr. Williams to Doctr. Franklin for Acct. "of the Public. If the Bill had been protested it woud have been "return'd to Mr. Williams, & then the charge wd. have been taken "off: but the Bill was accepted & Doctr. Franklin has endorsed "& deliver'd it to Monsr. De Chaumont taking his receit as "payment of so much on Acct., he having an open Acct. against "the Commissioners". — This alarm'd Mr. Adams, who applyed to Mr. Chaumont to know what account he had against the Comrs.; Mr. C. replyed that he had no account at all agt. the Comrs. — This happen'd in June 1778 — or abt. that time & thus it rested till 1779, when Doctr. Franklin finding it wd. be necessary to make some sort of settlement of Mr. Williams Acct. & that these same £50000, must be accounted for some how or other, he gets from Mr. Chaumont two Notes of hand payle. to himself, one for £30000, payle. in a month & the other for £20000, payle. in two Months, in both of which, is express'd that the Value was recd. by Mr. Chaumont, of Mr. Williams

Doctr.

Doctor Franklins Nephew. —— The Reader will no doubt view the whole of this transaction with some degree of wonder & amazement, but the measures since taken by Doct.r F. to get some appearance of sanction for passing his Nephews Acct.s are equally curious. There is no doubt but Mr. Jn.o Ross will be one of Mr. Williams's Examiners, who has himself ab.t half a Million of Public money to account for to D.r F.

(G) Mr. L.'s conduct since he got to Am.a shows that Mr. W. was not mistaken in his Man. Addison says
"Great Souls by instinct to each other turn
"Demand Alliance, & in friendship Burn".
May we not say that the same instinct prevails in Souls of a contrary denomination?

(H.). Such strong asseverations prove clearly that the assertor, does not believe the World thinks so well of him, as he does of himself.

(I.). One can't precisely say what this Narration is, but probably time will bring it to light, as it is no doubt to support some plot that Mr. Deane was then hatching; but Mr. W.'s contriving the manner of it, shows his Genius & may, amongst other things, account for Mr. D's extolling one so highly, that is to be his supporter.

(K.). This proves the League & in some measure the expectations of the Parties. ——

Extract of a Letter addressed thus, " To The Honble
"Silas Deane Esqr." and dated " Nantes March 28th. 1778.

"Sir

"Your account of the connection you had (or engaged in)
"with Messrs. W. M. & Co. I attend to, the property on which any
" advantages arise being still in America you would do best to
" settle with Mr. Morris at meeting, including" (N.B. it is
supposed the writer here meant concluding) "you have an
"account of the advances made by the late Mr. T. Morris & the
"Invoices on which the other transactions originates. (A)
"There must be some reason for your ommiting what I recommend
"ed in my letters of the 12th. & 19th.— I shall therefore address
"the Com^rs. as I think myself in every respect entitled to their
"assistance in my situation. (B.) I hope there can be no irregularity
"in my asking your opinion, especially as I know the finances
"are solely under your direction" &c &c.
(C)

I am &c signed/ Jno. Ross.

"N.B. I rec^d. a bill drawn by Marquiss de la Fayette on Monsr. Girard
"for 17143 Livres, which I find is protested, you gave unlimited
"credit to Mr. Morris favour of the Drawer I shall direct it
"to be presented at maturity (unless paid) to you."

Remarks on the foregoing Letter.

(A). Here is one proof added to the many others that have before come to light, of Mr. Deanes Mercantile engagements on his own Acc^t. while he was acting as a Commissioner, & will explain the secret motive that has knit him & Mr. R. M. so closely together

(B). This Scotchman here shows, that he thinks himself fully

intitled to as much of the Public money as he wanted, tho besides remittances from America, he had before rec.d ab.t half a Million or more of the Public Money from the Com.rs, not a Livre of which had then been accounted for; on this sum besides other gains, he will no doubt have 5 p C.t Com.n tho he does not advance one shilling. But this is all fair & allowable in a Scotchman, — because he is the Friend of Mr. D. & Mr. M. &c — (257)

(C.) This Letter & the foregoing one from Mr. Williams proves beyond contradiction that those who were fingering the Public Money by wholesale, look'd up to Mr. Deane as the sole disposer of it, & as the person who had the sole control over it. This Idea, it must be supposed, arose from these people knowing by Experience that Mr. Deane took upon himself that sole authority.

But now that Congress calls for an Account of the expenditure of the Money, Mr. Deane lumps the business in a most extraordinary manner by saying, A Million or so was given to Mr. Williams, half a Million to Mr. Ross several hundred thousand Livres to Mr. Chaumont, — Many hundred thousand Livres to Sebatier & Co. which house as well as Mr. Chaumont, by Mr. Simeon Deane's letter is in partnership with him, but there is no particular account render'd from these personages, how they have expended these very large sums, or why so much of the Public money was put into their hands; & then Mr. Deane says, the Money could not have been so disbursed without the knowlege & approbation of the other Commissioners; which assertion seems to be pretty fully contradicted by the foregoing letters.

Observations of J. D. W. &c &c
N.o 8 9 - 257.

To
His Excellency Arthur Lee Esqr.
Chaillot

Mr. now Captn. Archer

[illegible] presents his respectful Compts to Mr Lee & returns him many thanks for the letters of introduction with which he has favored him, as well as for the civilities Mr Lee has been kind enough to confer on him during his short stay in Paris — Mr A. will take care the letter to Nantes shall be delivered as directed.

Wednesday Evening —

& of Deanes conduct – Cannon &c
might have been here sooner if
not delayed for private purposes.
9 Jan.y 78 Complains of his
situation as worse and worse
Seeth misconduct daily which
he cant prevent and expects at
last they will join and charge
him with their misdeeds. Wishes
to be quit of a business where those
who abuse him are using p. money
to make friends for them, enemies
to him. Deanes brother mentain.d
at the pub. expence, tho in no
character. Sent a progress thro
Hol.d to form Mer. Connections.
then free passage to America,
to establish himself 2 brother a
Comp.y in Virg.a – Vid the
allowance Congress made him.
Feb.y 11. 78 A. L about
Articles 11 & 12 of Treaty –
Deanes Commerce & Mons.r
Le Astenget of Charles Town
conquie information of his
Com.l engagements.
31st March 78. Reasons
of various persons for ~~consulting~~
not addressing their letters to
A. L. as one of the Com.rs
Mons.r Gerards coming
concealed from A. L. by
rest of the Com.rs – Letter
from A. L. to Dr F. compla=
=ning of D.s coming away
with.t settling accounts.
Ross to Deane. 10 Mar. 78
Persuading latter to interfere
about papers Mr. Lee had
that latter might be deprived
of management – Deane the
Sole Conductor of Finances.

March 26. 1778
Williams to Deane Solicits
unlimited leave to draw –
Charge Prize money as if paid
His Connections with Deane
avowed

31 March A. L. to
F. & Deane about latters
coming away without
settling accounts. F.s eva=
=sions.

(No 78)

Extracts &c from Dr. Lee's letters

Extracts from several letters of Dr. Lee 77 & 78

(No 78)

Octr. 4. 77. Has tried France Spain & Prussia— They wont ally with us. He thinks our engagements had better be made in flourishing circum=stances. Wishes the war at an end because of dissipation and danger to a young Country. Mentions Mr. Morris letter of reprimand to F. & D. wonders he escaped— Mr. F. M conduct worse on this— Encour to be so by P. & Genl for plun=der. Between 8 March & 19 April wrote 5 letters. Gives acct of his negociations in Spain. Went to Spain because F. could not go thro' such bad roads in so rigorous a season & D. excused himself because he must go to Holland: which he never did. Determined to appro=priate the first 2 Mill. borrowed to the paymt. of interest, and in=formed Committee so— Whilst he was away in Ger. Deane involved them in Engagemts— far beyond the whole. So shall be obliged to borrow to interest draughts. Comrs shd. not meddle with Merchandize. Positive assurances that what they had hitherto received from France & Spain was given witht. expec=ting a return. Unfavorable proceedings of Court, owing to Cunninghams business, which was against Treaty, their insisting & our promises. Done by D. alone. Deane wanted to make people angry with the Court for a con=duct which he forced. This he says will be great injustice to the Court— A. L. Decr 22. 77 Complains of his situation,

M. de Chalut, en réitérant ses offres de service a Monsieur Lée a l'honneur de l'assurer que dès que le taffia sera arrivé, il sera retiré avec grand soin et que M. Franklin et lui en seront informés sur le champ.

Pourroit on sçavoir a qui appartenoit la Cargaison du Vaisseau que M. Adams a pris. on pretend que plusieurs Francais y sont interessés, ainsi que les Correspondans de la ferme générale a Londres.

a Mercredy.

(31)

N° 2 (N° 203) No date

I wonder you do not say a word about Thornton. Since last Post I received the following Note from him. Pray see that I do not loose the Money I was so foolish as to lend him.

"The day after × I had the pleasure of seeing you, matters of consequence obliged me to set off for France. Cant possibly be back before 9 or 10 of June, at wch time shall most thankfully return you 99l &c a friend has promised to deliver you this, or else would not have wrote, shall only add that I remain &c &c."

× This is not true. He stay'd above a week afterwards at Hammersmith. - What do these Letters mean?

I wish our friends employed a less doubtful character & with submission I think it imports them - To be a little attentive to this extraordinary man - That est satis verbum &c - My best respects always attend our venerable & wise friend 299. Once more Adieu ǂ

True Copy A Lee

M Livingston

(No 203) Fragment
A. Lee
from
M. Livingston
relative
to
Thornton
No date

Various papers
relative to Thornton
& Deane

tremble at the idea of a war with France & Spain. And with reason. The ~~…~~ utter loss of America they know woud be the inevitable consequence. Press'd as they now are by ~~America alone~~, by ~~…~~ what possible means coud they withstand the addition of this force. The whole effective Army in England, Ireland, & Scotland does not exceed ten thousand men. Almost all these are new raised, ill chosen, & undisciplined. The Militia has greatly degenerated especially in Officers. Their german resources are already almost exhausted. From Russia they have nothing to hope. In these circumstances the very declaration of war woud shake her funds to their foundation. A serious appearance of an invasion woud overwhelm them. In all human probability the House of Bourbon woud have only to dictate the concessions which great Britain must be obliged to make.

It may therefore be depended upon that nothing will provoke great Britain to a war, till she has settled [illegible] business with America. To that object she wishes [illegible] all her force. To [illegible] that operate, is to give her the only possible chance of retrieving herself from the ruin which threatens her. A small effort now might [illegible] the necessity of very great ones hereafter. But shoud she be permitted to exert her utmost against America, [illegible] shoud succeed, her force will be truly formidable. In proportion as she is intent upon compassing that point, shoud those who wish to humble her pride & reduce her power endeavor to prevent it.

It is conceived that if a Squadron, as is desired, were sent from hence, great Britain wou'd dispatch another to watch its motions, & render it useless. But this does not seem probable, & for these reasons. What great Britain most apprehends & what she ~~imagines~~ the House of Bourbon is meditating — is an invasion. Her sole trust for ~~the~~ defence against that, is ~~the~~ her fleet. She knows that a french Army only landed in England, wou'd undoe her. She will therefore believe, that this Squadron is only a feint to draw away her fleet, & render the invasion more secure. Such measures too might be easily taken as wou'd lead her to & confirm her in that belief. Consequently she wou'd be so far from dividing, that she wou'd collect her Ships. ~~If~~ In any event ~~then of this measure must be~~ she must either weaken her defence at home, and hazard her own existence, or suffer an irreparable loss in America. She has unadvisedly put herself into this perillous situation, from which nothing can redeem her but the inaction of her Rivals.

Nothing will ever restore the connection between America & great Britain but necessity. Ages will pass away, before the memory of her injustice, treachery & oppression [illegible] Laying [illegible] fenceless towns in ashes, tempting mercenaries [illegible] destroy them by promising them the property of the[illegible] they murdered, instigating slaves to plunge the poniard in the bosoms of their masters, & inviting the Savages to ~~feast~~ drink the blood & feast up[on] the Bodies of the Americans — these are acts of rancour & revenge which cannot easily be forgotten or forgiven. They have created a detestation of her government, & of her name which nothing but hard necessity

can ever palliate. It is to prevent ~~that~~ such necessity that this aid is sollicited. It is to ensure the independence of America, & with that the loss to great Britain of her marine, her commerce, & her command. Stript of these she can no longer ~~[illegible]~~ aspire to the dictatorship of Europe & the tyranny of the seas. The commerce & consequence of France & Spain must rise as she falls, which with the amity of America they could maintain against all the powers of Europe.

(No 112)

Fragment of a Memoire
by Arthur Lee
(Probably addressed to the Court of
France or Spain.)

(Put this among the drafts of Papers by A.L.

No date

Proposal made by John Pendfield & William Haywood to the Hon.ble Arthur Lee Esq

(No 222)

To take on board (at Penbeuf) their ship the Governor Livingston the Goods belonging to the State of Virginia laying at Nantes on freight to America

The freight to be rated at five pounds Sterling or One hundred & twenty Livres Tournois p ton —

The freight pay.ble in Six months from the signing of the Bills of Loading

should a longer term be required by Mr Lee for the payment of the freight customary Interest for the time to be allowed —

The Goods to be taken from on board the Ship in America at the expence of the Shiper or owner of the Goods

(No 222)

J. Bradfield & Wm Haywood
Proposal for freight

Without date

(N° 57)

Puisque vous avez quelque intérêt, Monsieur, à ce que l'extrait de nos conversations devant Mr Izard, et relatives à vos débats avec Mr Deane soit fidelle; j'ai l'honneur de vous prévenir qu'après avoir lû celui que vous m'envoyez, j'y trouve plusieurs objets de mes plaintes trop obscurément exprimés, pour que votre récit puisse passer pour exact. D'autres objets, tels que le rapport fait par vous de conversations entre vous deux à Londres, exigent que mes réponses ayant constamment formé le désaveu le plus net des intentions que vous m'y prêtez, soient écrites à la suite de votre assertion.

En général cet Ecrit est fait avec le désordre qui tient à l'incertitude des Souvenirs; ce qui en détruit la Suite et la Clarté. Si j'eusse cru que nos conversations fussent une espèce d'interrogatoire que vous me faisiez Subir, je m'y Serais peut-être moins Livré au ressentiment que tant d'injustices me donnent Sans cesse. J'aurais parlé avec moins de passion des choses qui m'affectent le plus dans toute cette obscure intrigue dont je ne tiens pas encore le nœud.

Dans un débat familier on se livre aisément à l'impulsion de la nature : mais dans des discussions destinées à être mises sous les yeux d'un respectable corps assemblé, l'on se réprime ; on se contente des objets graves qui y ont rapport et l'on supprime tout le fatras.

Je n'entens jamais que me plaindre des torts qu'on m'a faits, et non blesser personne. C'est sous ce point de vue que je vais examiner de nouveau l'écrit que vous m'envoyez. J'y rétablirai en marge les objets qui manquent d'exactitude, je lui donnerai la marche méthodique d'où naît la clarté si nécessaire en affaires contentieuses ; et je vous soumettrai ensuite ce travail si vous persistés à croire que tout cela soit bien nécessaire. Car malgré ce que vous m'avez dit, il répugne à mon coeur de penser que Mr Deane qui a tant à se louer de moi, ait jamais pu avoir l'intention de nuire aux intérêts d'un homme qui a bien servi et lui et son Pays ; et qu'il l'ait fait par des menées infâmes et des rapports insidieux. Certes ! j'aurai bien de la peine encore à me le persuader si jamais on me le prouve invinciblement ; et j'avoue que l'extrême différence que vous persistez à mettre dans nos conversations de Londres, entre

votre entente et mes discours, m'apprend à me tenir en garde contre tout ce qui se passe entre nous.

Mais il faudra rayer de votre écrit tout ce qui tient à ces conversations d'Angleterre si vous n'ajoutez point que je nie formellement vous avoir dit d'aussi grossieres absurdités que celles que vous m'y prêtez. Si votre peu d'usage de ma Langue, ou quelque autre motif vous a fait prêter un sens étranger à mes discours, je ne puis que plaindre et desavouer votre erreur; et comme mes Lettres à vous, sont le complément de mes phrases verbales, elles doivent servir de preuve à tout le monde que vous m'aviez mal entendu. Car mes Lettres étant en chiffre et remises surement à Londres, je ne leur ai point donné de sens obscur. Ce qu'elles contiennent est précisément ce que j'ai voulu dire; il n'y a ni équivoque ni sens couvert là dessous.

Telles sont en général les reflexions que votre écrit m'inspire. Faisant marcher la justice avant tout, je vous ai donné verbalement tous les éclaircissemens que vous avez paru desirer; mais les choses écrites exigent une exactitude austere que des

Caron de Beaumarchais
to A. Lee.

(N° 57)

(~~No 17~~)

simples souvenirs rendent difficilement. Je rétablirai cette exactitude, et j'aurai l'honneur de ~~vous~~ faire part de mes observations à cet égard: car je ne vous ai pas dit un mot qui ne soit appuyé de pièces probantes.

J'ai l'honneur d'être ~~avec~~ la plus haute considération,

Monsieur

Votre très humble et très obéissant Serviteur

Caron de Beaumarchais

Since you are somewhat interested, that the Ex:
:tract of our conversation in presence of Mr. Izard,
and relative to your discussion with Mr. Deane
should be faithful: I have the honor to apprise you
that after having read that which you sent me,
I therein find several subjects of my complaint too
obscurely expressed for your recital to be allowed
to pass as exact. — other matters, such as the Report
made by you of the conversations between us two
at London, require, that my replies having invaria:
:bly made the most distinct disavowal of the inten:
:tion, which you therein ascribe to me, should be attach
:ed to the foot of your assertion.

In general this Report has been made with the
confusion which attaches to the uncertainty of me:
:mory; which destroys its connexion and its clearness.

Had I believed that our conversation would
constitute a sort of interrogatory which you re:
:present me as undergoing, I should perhaps have
~~in~~ indulged myself less in the resentment which
so many acts of injustice incessantly occasion.
I should have spoken with less passion of matters
which affect me most in the whole of that obscure
intrigue the connexion of which I have not yet ascertained

In a familiar discussion one readily surrenders himself to the impulses of Nature: but in discussions intended to be submitted to the eyes of a respectable assembled Body, one restrains himself and is content with grave subjects which belong to such discussions, and suppresses all trash.

I only intend to complain of the wrongs which have been done me, and to blame no one. It is in this point of view that I am about to examine a-new the Report which you send me. I will there in the margin re-establish the subjects which are deficient in exactitude, I will give it the methodical form whence springs that clearness so necessary in controversial affairs; and will then submit to you this work, if you persist in thinking that all this is very essential. For notwithstanding all that you have said to me it is repugnant to my heart to believe that Mr Deane who has so much reason to commend himself on my account could ever have intended to injure the interests of a man who has greatly served both himself & his Country; and that he so acted by infamous intrigues and by insidious Reports. — Certainly! it would afford me great pain also to persuade myself of it, if ever it should be undeniably proved; and I confess that the wide difference which you persist in attaching to our conversation in London between your understanding

and my language teaches me to be on my guard in reference to all that passes between us.

But it will be necessary to erase from your Report every thing which relates to these conversations in England if you do not add thereto that I formally deny having addressed to you such gross absurdities as those which you therein ascribe to me. Should your unfrequent use of my language, or some other motive have caused you to ascribe an unusual meaning to my conversation, I can only complain and disavow your mistake; and as my Letters to you are the complement of my verbal expressions, they should serve as proof to all the World that you have misunderstood me. For my Letters being in Cipher and safely transmitted to London, I have never given them an obscure meaning. What they contain is precisely what I desired to say, they contain neither equivocation, nor covert meaning.

Such, in general, are the reflections with which your Report inspires me. Doing justice in the first place, I have given you verbally all the explanations which you have seemed to desire; but written documents demand an austere exactitude which mere memory with difficulty affords. I will re-instate this exactitude, and will have the honor to make you participate in my observations in that respect: for I have never spoken to you a word which shall not be sustained by

Caron de Beaumarchais to A. Lee

convincing documents.

I have the honor to be with the highest consideration

Sir

Your very Humble and very

Obedient Servant

Caron de Beaumarchais.

Prices of Divers Articles to be deliverd at Hamburg

	Liv. Sous
Soldiers Cloath, green, blue, brown. the Berlin Ell	2, 6½
Do. White	2, 3
Do. Scarlet	3, 6
Cloath Lining white	12
Do. coloured	13½
Soldiers Uniform, blue Coat, lapelld & cuffd with red cloath, white waistcoat wout sleeves, white Breeches without lining	20
Soldiers Mantle or great Coat without lining	15, 15.
Short cloath Waistcoat with Sleeves, cuffd lind with linnen, for light Infantry, & Breeches, (green or brown)	12
The same with the Breeches lind	12, 16
Pair of cloath Guiters lind with linnen	3. 6
Do. of black linnen lind	2. 12
Pair of woollen Stockings	1. 13
Pair of strong Shoes	5.
A Hat cu & made like the french & yellow Cap, for light Infantry, grey	2, 12
Do. coloured	3,
A Blanket 3 Ells long & 3 wide	12,
Soldiers Hat black & laced with worsted	2, 12
Do. Shoes	5
An Officers tent	80
Soldiers do. for Six men,	24
[illegible]t Cloth [illegible]4 berlin Ell wide — pr Ell	12

N B. An Ell & 3/4 ~~[illegible]~~ of Berlin Make a french Ell

the fourth part of a Berlin Ell being 6 ~~[illegible]~~ english Inches.

Paris

The Hon Arthur Lee Esq

Bordeaux 1 Jany 1779

Sir

We are as we have been for several Posts past without any Interesting Occurr. by advises from Spain Gibralter appears to attract their movements; no intelligence from Comte d'Estaing gives room to suppose him gon to the West Indies ~~or~~ steering to Toulon, Comodore Rowley sailing without the Ships he was orderd to Convoy makes the Merchants here apprehend for their W. India Possessions a force so formidable being too powerful for any they have in them Seas to oppose ~~them~~

you write ~~please~~ not to omit inclosing the Bills I left Mr Adams drawn by different officers on the Navy Board for advances made by me to them, I am continually obliged to the same alternatif by arrivals of Captains & Officers whose Misfortunes have reduced them and reduces them to depend on private Suports. will it not be proper I should have from yo. or W.A. an acknowledgement of having receivd such drafts from me for the purpose of transmitting to the Navy Board to receive orders for Payment in Europe or if it could be otherways determind say

to

to order me a Reimbursment, without that delay it would be more pleasing the Notes I left were

of Charles Bulkley Lieut of the Alfred - - - 20
Peter Richards Lieut of the Alfred - - - 20
John Borchon Surgeon of the (Alfred) Hornet - 20

which I meent particularly as being men known to you if I could point out any other channel of reimbursment I would avoid troubling you

Accept my most sincere wishes for success to all your undertakings (this year) visits every instant gives not leasure to write so intent are the French in Complimg Duties

I am respectfully

Sir

Your very hbl Servt

John Bondfield

Mr. Montieu was informed by us all, that it would be necessary for him to shew the receipts of that agent Mr. Williams, of the Articles charg[ed] in his Account, before it could be finally settled. He went down to Nantes where Mr. Williams & his Bureau were. Instead of Receits specifying the number, colour & condition of the Uniforms; with the Number of pounds of Copper & the sort which Mr. Williams recevd on our Account; we are only told that he received 114 Bales Contain[in]g Soldiers cloaths & several Casks of Copper without any specification whatever. The only particulars we have had from Mr. Williams are that the Uniforms were so bad that they ought to have been rejected. The Letter sent us as a receit is dated from Passy, & the reason given for not being more accurate is that Mr. Williams's Counting house was far off. Mr Williams being returned to Nantes may send the proper Receits without which I shall think it my duty to refuse paying Mr. Montieu's demand. In the mean time after having been so long apprised of what was necessary [to] the settlement of his Accounts & not complying with it, Mr Montieu ought to know it is his fault not ours that they are not settled. Both Mr Williams & Mr. Montieu are surely conversant enough in business to know that a Receit should specify the time of receiving & the quantity & quality of the things received — As it seems probable to me that we shall differ with Mr. Montieu about his demand; I should not think it prudent to put any of the public property into his hands. We have had sufficient experience how ready People are to pay themselves when they can get hold of the public property. But if so extraordinary a thing was to be done as lending him what was bought for the public, I should imagine the return proposed for it ought to be under his hand.

A. Lee

Chaillot Jany 2. 1779

Gentn

M. de Monthieu earnestly requests that his Acct. may be finished. The Receipts were left here some time since.

He also repeats his Request to be favoured with the Anchors. ~~After~~ As we have refus'd to sell them, he will if we will lend them to him deliver them in America to our Order. They may thus go without Charge of Freight, we shall oblige him, & his Vessel which is of Force, he says shall take Capt. Livingston any other of our Vessels under her Convoy.

2 Jan '79

J'ai reçu de Monsieur Arthur Lee Vingt deux mille Sept Cent Vingt cinq livres en une assignation sur la Caisse d'Escompte dont Je Crediterai le Compte particulier des Etats unis Paris le 2 Janvier 1779

Grand

L. 22725.

(No 273)

To His Excellency M. the Count de Vergennes

Chaillot Jan: 3rd 1779

I have the honour of sending to your Excellency the Copy of a letter which I received yesterday. It is from the same hands as another which I had the honour to cause to be shewn you by Monsr Grand some fourteen months ago, proposing a Rendezvous with Dr Franklin and myself in order to arrange the conditions of a Reconciliation.

This Gentleman whose name is Berkenhout was sent ~~at that time~~ since then to America with the British Commissioners. He was imprisoned in Philadelphia, on suspicion of the object of his mission, and discharged for want of proofs. Behold him on his return to his Country, and to his attempts to seduce by offers of Emoluments and of Titles of honor, which we, in our language, call 'honors'.

If your Excellency be of the opinion that it would be of any use to endeavour to obtain the authority for what he has done; I will make the suitable reply: if not, I will make no reply at all. This is also the opinion of my Colleagues.

I have the Honor to be &c &c

(Signed) A. Lee

A. Lee to Count de Vergennes

(No 273) Jany 3d 1779

A son Excellence M. le Comte de Vergennes.

(N° 273) Chaillot Jan. 3.d 1779

J'ai l'honneur d'envoyer à Votre Excellence la Copie d'une Lettre que j'ai reçu hier. C'est de mêmes mains avec une autre, que j'avois l'honneur de vous fair voir par Mons.r Grand; il y a quatorze mois proposante un Rendez-vous avec Mons. Franklin et moi pour arranger les Conditions d'une Ra-commodement.

Ce Monsieur, que est nommé Berkenhout, a été en-voyé, depuis ce tems-là en Amerique avec les Commis-saires britanniques. Il a été emprisonné à Philadelphie sur soupçon de l'objet de sa Mission, et relaché faut des preuves. Le voila de retour à sa Patrie, et à ses Tentatives à seduire par des Offres des Emolumens et des Titres d'honneur; que nous appellons dans notre Langue honours.

Si votre Excellence est d'avis qu'il sera d'aucune utilité de tacher d'obtenir son autrisation pour ce qu'il a fait; Je ferai la reponse convenable: si non, je ne y repondrai pas de tout. C'est aussi l'avis de mes Collegues.

J'ai l'honneur d'etre &c &c

(signé) A. Lee

Vrai Copie du Livre des Lettres.

A. Lordsleck

Jany. 3d. 1779
A Lee to Ct. de Vergennes
respectg Berkenhout
Jany. 4th. Answer —
recd. Augt. 2d.
inclosed in Jan 5

~~No. 172~~

No 141

~~No. 1~~

Arthur Lee to Count de Vergennes
(No 273) Jany. 3d 1779
(~~No. 141~~)

Versailles le 4 janvier 1779

Je n'ai point trouvé Monsieur, jointe a la lettre que vous
m'avez fait l'honneur de m'ecrire celle d'angre
que vous m'annoncés et que vous dites être du Docteur
Berkenhout qui l'avoit rendu suspect a philadelphie.
mais sans avoir vû cette lettre, je pense Monsieur,
qu'après ce qui s'est passé entre le Congrès et les
Commissaires Anglois, il seroit contre la dignité de votre
Commission que vous vous prêtassiez a donner des
rendez vous a des agens qui ne se seroient pas annoncés
a vous la palme de l'independance souveraine a la main.
mon avis seroit donc que vous repondissiez nettement
a ces agens, qu'a moins qu'il ne vous assure de la
reconnoissance la plus entiere de votre independance
et qu'il ne soit porteur de propositions conformes a la
fidelité avec laquelle votre nation et votre gouvernemt
se glorifient de remplir leurs engagemens, vous ne
pouvez consentir a aucune entrevûe avec lui ni avec
tout autre emissaire. Vous sentez Monsieur, et M.

M Lée

Vos Collegues le sentent egalement, on ne veut paroitre negocier avec vous non pour vous accorder des conditions sortables, mais pour faire supposer peu d'accord entre nous et vous et nourrir l'illusion au moyen de laquelle on saigne les bourses Angloises.

J'ai l'honneur d'etre tres parfaitement, Monsieur

Votre tres humble et tres obeissant serviteur

De Vergennes

[illegible] Hy Laurens
to Mr Adams Esqr

(N° 274) Versailles 4 Janvier 1779

Je n'ai point trouvé Monsieur, jointe à la Lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire hier celle d'Angleterre que vous m'annoncées et que vous dites être du Docteur Berkenhout qui s'étoit rendu suspect à Philadelphie. Mais sans avoir vu cette Lettre, je pense Monsieur qu'après ce qui s'est passé entre le Congrès & les Commissaires Anglois, il seroit contre la dignité de votre commission que vous vous pretassiez à donner des rendez vous à des agens, qui ne seroient pas annoncés a vous la palme de l'Independance à la main. Mon avis seroit donc que vous repondissiez nettement à cet agent, qu'a moins qu'il ne vous assure de la reconnoissance la plus entiere de votre independance & qu'il ne soit porteur des propositions conformes à la fidelité avec laquelle votre Nation & votre gouvernement se glorifient de remplir leurs

Count de Vergennes

(N° 274) (A. to Lee 4 Jan: 1779.)

engagemens, vous ne pouvés consentir à au-
-cune entrevue avec lui ni avec tout autre
Emissaire. Vous sentez Monsieur et Messieurs
vos Collegues le sentent egallement on veut
paroitre negocier avec vous non pour vous accor-
der des Conditions sortable, mais pour faire
supposer peu d'accord entre nous & vous et
nourrir l'illusion au moyen de laquelle on
saigne les bourses Angloises.

J'ai l'honneur d'être tres parfaitement

Monsieur

Votre très Humble &
très Obeissant Serviteur
(Signé) De Vergennes

Vraie Copy
A Hoardfeld

1779

M. M. Lee Deputé des Etats Unis

Paris Jan.ʸ 6ᵗʰ 1779

(No 277)

We are in great astonishment at so long a silence on the part of our [constit—s] 101, a, XVI—s. The [Junto] 218, 6, III of which the [consul] 101, a, XXXVI & he who is his correspondent here the pretended [Intendant] 212, b, III make a part, are tired with distributing accounts of their triumph.

Beaumarchais however seems so satisfyed that the whole will soon be in the power of the [doctor] 134, a, VI. & [Dean] 115, b, XXXVIII that he has formed a connection with Chaumont, Montieu, & Williams & will not produce any accounts to the present [Commission] 93, b, XIII, as the expected one will smooth all difficulties. The [Nephew] 253, b, XXI in the partnership is to go over immediately I suppose to engage [Dean] 461, a, XXIX, & 455, b, XXII, — [R. Morris] 218, a, X in the connection. If he succeeds the proposed [plunder] 283, a, IV being some hundred thousands sterling, there will be a

ques-

-quoi payéos so as to make all their fortunes out of the public. And in this I think they will succeed if the same inattention to their con-duct continues. The old proverb that an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of remedy is no where so applicable as to the public money. The plunder of it may be prevented, but when plundered it never is recovered. Those who love their country will therefore bend their attention to prevent its being plundered.

No other 287, a, X, [power] seems yet disposed to 36, b, XXII, [acknowledge] 415, a, X. [us] This 108, a, IX [6—t] seems not at all inclined to urge it which I am very un-easy at. But it is a very delicate matter to handle especially as I am situated. He that is at the 187, a, X [head] of 415, a, X [us] is agreeable to the 243, a, XVII, [Minister] because he can manage him by underlings such as the soi-disant 217, b, III, [Intendant] & is sure never to be troubled with his importu-nities

-nitier except for some [livres] 229, a, XXV–s to put into his [nephews] 253, b, XXI pocket. Without him it is impossible to urge any thing with success, especially when it is not in their system. The first of every [c—m—n] 93, b, XIII is always considered as of most weight & what he does not concur in, is supposed to be improper. He seems to lend himself more & more & with less shame every day to [Tools] 216, a, VIII–s without bestowing one moment's thought upon the great [objects] 258, a, XII–s of the [public] 297, a XXXV. Perhaps after all this [c—t] 108, a, IX weight & patience is the only remedy.

The Marquis de la Fayette's family are always enquiring of me after his health & situation. You will therefore oblige me by always saying something of him. The same of the Baron de Kalb.

You are said very much to encourage & patronize [f] 170, a, XXIV, [ne] 240, a, XII. In my opinion the misbehaviour of the Individuals of that [n—n] 252, a, XXVIII who come among us will not only render

(No 277) Jan.ry 6 1729 [~~No 126~~]

them 259. b, XXI [o-d-s] but endanger 252, a, XXIX [n-t-e] disputes. As they are not bound by any benefits, have no measure to their vanity & their demands, no faith in their engagements, nor any reserv in their resentments; they are dangerous persons to encourage. Their 201, a, XXXV-s [i-m-p-s] & 211, a, XVIII [ins-l-e] have already I understand given much disgust & will do more.

Your Boys are well & each qualifying himself for ~~their~~ professions

nous manquames hier Monsieur bien malheureusement mr Le Prince de Tingry. Je le vis une demie heure apres. Il etoit allé chez mr Le Duc d'Estissac qui demeure a coté de lui et fut fort faché de ne l'etre pas trouvé chez lui, lorsque nous le demandames.

Il me dit qu'il iroit vous chercher aujourdhuy ou demain. Il est vieux, a une mauvaise santé, et dans ce moment cy, beaucoup d'affaires comme quelqu'un qui a fait une absence de trois mois. Je lui dis que je me chargeois de le faire ecrire chez vous. C'est une forme que nous admettons communement cy pour les visites qui sont de devoir. il arrive souvent que celui cy qui s'en charge le dit

tout Simplement, comme Je fais dans ce moment

cy, a la personne interessée. Je devrois aller

chez vous a une heure ou vous n'y seriez

pas si nous faire lire sr. le pce de tingry et

moy. voila ce que Je dois -mais comme Il

n'en resulteroit aucun plaisir pour vous

J'imagine que vous trouverez ~~bonne~~ aussi bonne, la reconnoissance

de ce que sur le pce de tingry vous doit by

~~[illegible]~~

word of mouth Je profite de votre —

amitié pour moy, pour m'en servir.

Au reste Il m'a chargé de vous prier a

diner chez lui quelque Jour. J'en prendrai

un Si cela vous convient. ce ne peut etre

que dans la Semaine prochaine au plutot.

la Regle est que quelqu'un qui veut en

prier un autre qu'il ne connoit pas a diner

Va le chercher ou, s'y fait lire; ce que

nous regardons toujours comme la meme

chose. Sans cela les gens principaux

qui tiennent des maisons ne feroient que courir une partie de l'année.

Si Il y a un intervalle entre l'invitation et le jour ou le diner ou souper doit avoir lieu l'invité doit faire une visite, sur tout si Il y a une femme.

mais apres le jour du repas, Il doit certainement passer chez celui qui l'a prié. Je m'en suis informé hier avec soin.

Voilà donc la regle Etroite. nous l'adoucissons suivant les convenances. par Exemple un Etranger qui n'aura que peu de tems a etre a paris, Il suffira qu'il se fasse Ecrire

mais s'Il ~~reste~~ a paris, et qu'il veuille tirer quelque parti de ce commencement de connoissance, Il prend pour rendre sa visite le tems ou Il peut trouver les

personnes chez elles. Et ne deviont entrer pas
de ce qui suffit pour etre en regle vis a vis
d'Elles.

Comme vous avez deja diné chez mr de ...
vous n'aurez rien a faire avant le diner qu
nous arrangerons s'il vous convient. Et
ensuitte vous n'y irez qu'autant que cela
vous conviendra. vous ne devrez qu'une
visite a la princesse au bout de quelques jours
ouvrages vous ferez ecrire pr le prince ~~de fa~~
jour
le doyen dans la pres midy. les visites de
Ceremonie aux hommes se font le matin.

Jay ecrit a mr d'Aubeun pour lui
demander un autre jour plus assuré
que celui de hier.

Vous connoissez Monsieur mon
sincere attachement

mercredy 6 Jer 1779

Comte Sarsfield
ou ...

Nantes Jan.y 7th 1779.—

(No. 275)

Dear Sir

It is with pleasure I embrace this opportunity of making some return for your confidence; The Commissioners will receive a Letter sign'd by all the Americans in Town and as it is imagined there will be no satis=factory Answer given, the Copy of the Letter together with the Answer will be laid before Congress; could you by any means escape their censure I would wish Messrs. Franklin & Adams might bear the Burden, as I am very sure that it & the many other things that will be alledged against them will entirely destroy their interest in America; I think should they not give a satisffactory answer, & you were to write seperately to the Gentlemen it would exculpate you, & the more enrage them against the others;

There is no news in this Place; I am afraid as the Frost is set in, that we shall not leave Nantes before the First of next Month; while here & in America I shall be allways ready to do you any service in my Power.— My Compliments to your Nephews & Mr. Ford, I am Dear Sir

Your sincere Friend &
very Humble Servt.
Alexr. Dick

as Mr. Schweighauser will have the care of this Letter, I hope you will receive it in Time.

(N° 275)

D. Q. G. Ed.

Alex.r Dick
to
A. Lee
(7th Jan: 1779.)

To
The Hon.ble Arthur Lee Esq.r
Chaillot
a Paris

NANTES

130

On Board of the Alliance 7th january 1779

Dear Sir

Since I had the pleasure of hearing from you I am told you are gone to Virginia, but I guess you must be back by this time — so at least I wish because I have directed Mssrs de la Colombe and Neville to take your commands, and I flatter myself you will ~~flatter~~ favor me with a letter by each of these gentlemen — You know Congress have Resolv'd to send fast sailing vessels this month and the Marine Committee have been pleas'd to permit my appointing some officers to carry the dispatches — it is so sure an occasion that I hope you will write me about any public or private affairs what you choose to intrust to me.

After having waited a very long time for an answer I expected from Congress I think it now my duty not to detain more the arrival of these former dispatches — my reasons for having waited, and now acting as I do, are explain'd in longer terms to Congress, and I hope they will meet with your approbation.

I always recommend you, ideas which you and myself are

The hon. Col. R. H. Lee

131

fond of about a canadian expedition — I really think it of an high importance to America and would be very sorry was such an agreed enterprise thought impossible. I hope you will not be oblig'd to recall the proposed plan, and that means may be found of executing it.

Farewell, my dear sir, and believe me with the most perfect regard

Your most obedient humble servant

Lafayette

La Fayette
Jany 7th 1779

1351

Extr^t of a Lett^r from P. Henry Govr of Virginia to the Delegates of that State dated Jan^ry 9 1779

"Within these few days I have rec^d inform^n by a paper sent from the hon. A^r Lee esq. at Paris to the hon. Jno Page Esqr Lt Govr of this State, that Hez^h Ford is Sec^y to Mr Lee. Every member of the Privy Council as well as myself are exceedingly alarmed at this circumstance, having the most perfect conviction that Mr Ford is altogether unfit to be near the persons of the American Commiss^rs. Nothing could induce any member of the Council or me to touch upon a m[atter] of this delicate Nature, especially at this time when Mr Lee's Character is attacked in public, but the persuasion that either Congress do not know that Mr Ford is employed in a confidential Capacity by one of their Commissioners, or that his true character is unknown to them or him. An assurance that the most essential interests of America will be betrayed by this man, if he has the opportunity has made it necessary to mention the following particulars.

This Hezekiah Ford has passed for a Minister of the Church of England and was sometime Chaplain to a Carolina Regim^t. He was strongly suspected of writing a seditious paper addressed to the people of Hanover County exhorting them to resist by force a draught ordered by Law from the militia to fill the Virginia Regim^ts in continent^l service. Very shortly after this paper appeared & suspicion of his writing it he went, at great hazard to himself on board the british Ship of War called the St Albans then laying in Hampton road. There he remained a considerable time, and from thence proceeded to N york continuing with the Enemy until he chose to go to Eng^d from whence he proceeded after some [illegible] to France, where, it seems from the paper I inclose he has found means to obtain an appointment, in which an Enemy to America may perhaps be furnished with opportunities to do great mischief.

I have been told that Ford pretends he was taken by the St Albans. But, upon obtaining the best in-

formation to be had on the subject, no doubt remain of his going to that ship of his own ~~[illegible]~~ free & premedi: tated Choice. Besides this, there seems to be good ground to suspect this same Mr. Ford of being deep concerned in counterfeiting our paper ~~[illegible]~~ money. The Reason of the inclosed paper being sent was this & &c. These things you are requested to lay before Congress in order that they may do therein what to them may seem proper.

Monseigneur

Je prends la liberté de vous addresser la présente, pour avoir l'honneur de vous Informer, que par les ordres de Mr votre frère Deputés du Congrès, a la Cour de france J'ai eû l'honneur de fournir au mois D'octobre passé pour le Service des trouppes de la province de Virginie par un traité fait avec le Sr Le Maire Capitaine de Dragons au service des Etats unis, Chargé de l'expedition à ce sujet, La quantité de 2600. Sabres tant D'Infanterie que de Dragons.

Sçavoir

Sabres de Grenadiers de Virginie	1400.
Sabres D'artillerie	600.
Sabres de Dragons	600
	2.600

Pour Chacun desdits Sabres Il m'a été accordé par mon traité les prix cy après

Sçavoir.

Pour les Sabre de Grenadiers sans lame	8.# 2.s
Le S.r Gau Entrepreneur de la Manufacture de lames d'aus l'alsace à fournit la lame à	3 – 12
	£. 11 . 14.
Pour les Sabre d'artillerie aussi sans la lame	8.# – 2.s
La lame à été fournit à	3.# – 10
	£. 11 12.
Pour les Sabre de Dragons sans lame	11.# " ,
La lame à été fournie. à	4.#
	£. 15. " ,

Vüe la brieveté du temps de 3 mois qui m'avoit été fixé pour faire cette fourniture Il m'avoit été alors impossible d'en moderer les prix puisque pour faire honneur à mes Engagemens J'étois obligé de payer tant les materiaux que

les ouvriers au double;

Mais par un arrangement que j'ai fait depuis et par la Diminution aux prix des lames que le dit S.r Gau avoit compté trop cher, Je me trouve en Etat de fournir dorénavant les Sabres touts montés y compris les lames au prix cy après. Savoir.

Le Sabre de Grenadier et D'artillerie tout monté . . . . £. 9 — 10 s.

Le Sabre de Dragons tout monté . . . . . 13. 10.

D'après cet Exposé je supplie Votre Excellence de m'accorder la Continuation des fournitures D'armes blanches pour le service des trouppes des Etats unis Dont je m'acquitterai à la parfaite Satisfaction du très honorable Congrès, c'est dont Il sera convaincu par ma susdite fourniture; me flattant que Depuis que les Etats Unis ont fait faire D'armes blanches en pays etranger, Ils n'ont pas été servi ensi bonne Marchandise qu'en la mienne.

Je fournis aussi les Sabres D'Houzard, Eppée, Sabre et Hausse cols D'officier, Casques pour Dragons, et toute autres armes relatifs. dont Comission Votre Excellence Voudra me Charger.

J'ai eu l'honneur de remettre la Copie de la présente en mains propres à Mr. Votre frère lors de mon séjour il y a un mois à Paris; lequel m'a fait la grace de me permettre de vous la Communiquer.

Et Votre Excellence en m'accordant ma très humble supplique sera également grace.

Le très humble et très obéissant Serviteur.

Strasbourg le 10. Janvier 1772.
en la province d'alsace.

Hamberger
Marchand fourbisseur

1.64
1.1
.84
.96
12
160
49.1
100.6-6
157.4.6
47.10
30
1410
124
5
620
146.11
10.13
157.4

(N° 276) Versailles le 10 Janvier 1779

Je reçois Monsieur avec la Lettre que vous m'avés fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 8. la copie de votre reponse à M. Berkenhout. Celle ci est noble & franche, ce ne sont pas les qualités qu'on cherit le plus en Angleterre, mais il est bon qu'on y sache que vos intentions ne different point de celles de vos Commettans, & que c'est vainement qu'on tentera leur fidelité & la votre.

Suivant nos avis D'Angleterre le coup de vent de la fin du mois dernier ont mis bien en desordre les nombreux convoyes préparés pour les deux Ameriques. Je vais instruire M. de Sartine de celui qui doit faire voile Corcke.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec une parfaite consideration, Monsieur, votre très Humble & très Obst Serviteur

(Signé) De Vergennes

A Monsieur
Monsieur Lée Deputé des Etats Unis de l'Amerique Septentrionale. Chaillot

de Vergennes to A. Lee

(No 276) Jany 10th 1779.

Jan 10th 1779
Ch. De V. to A. L.
in answ. to his
of the 8th respecting
Berkenhout

My dear Brother, Chantilly Jan.y 10. 1779

Since I wrote you by last Post, I have sustained a very severe fit of the gout, brought on I imagine by the sudden change of weather lately, from warm to Snow and frost. The swelling an[d] inflamation of my foot now abates, so that I expe[ct] to be with you, as Merchants say, in all this mon[th] at least my best endeavors shall not be wanting for this purpose. In my intervals of pain I have employed myself in looking over the numerous letters I had received since may last from our brothers, and which the pressure of public busine[ss] at Congress prevented me from properly attending to. Thus, whilst ~~others~~ some, intent alone upon public duty, suffer not inferior considerations to interrupt them; others, bent on private views of emo=lument and advancement, are endeavoring to raise themselves on the general ruin. Careless of th[e] latter, if the former can be obtained. Besides Gazette publication, Mr. Deane, it seems, had a thousand hand bills struck off, the better to dispe[rse] his infamous Libel both against Congress and ou[r] family. There was a Man seen passing Nomony ferry lately with one of them in his hand, and I have been well informed that great care has bee[n] taken to place them in proper han[ds] [illegible] to false and wicked innuendo, an[d] addi[illegible] false and wicked suggestions. I send you inclosed a Letter that I lately received from our York [illegible] a brave, sensible and honest Whig. Col. Mer[illegible]

sent me the Magazine on account of the curious paragraph contained in it, (which is sent you) and to shew the greedy swallowers of Newspaper accounts how little faith is to be put in many of them. The industry practised in circulating this scandalous libel, confirms the old opinion that wickedness is ever more industrious than virtue — The latter trusting to its own intrinsic worth, the former depending for success upon active art, and impositions. We sometimes have handbills published to notify some great victory obtained over the enemies of our Country, but when have we taken pains to have them penetrate every part of the U. S.?

On Eagles wings invidious scandals fly,
Whilst virtuous Actions are but born and die.

You have inclosed, copy of a letter from W. L. dated Paris July 31st, which, with Ross's letter to Deane, a copy of which you have already, and Mr. Lees letter to Congress read last Octr. or Novr. do most clearly refute that part of the Libel which suggests culpable inactivity in Commercial business, arising from apprehensions of private injury — And the letter from Ross shews that Deane knew this inactivity arose from another cause than what he has suggested. Mr. Deane knows also, that the causes of not going sooner to Vienna arose from many wise and solid reasons of most public nature and not from what he has again in this instance suggested. The political wisdom of applying to ~~Congress~~ Vienna & Berlin was known to Congress, but the particular temper of these Courts not understood when they appointed a Commissioner to go thither. When Wm. Lee returned from Nantes to Paris in Octobr. (for in his letter of the 7th he says 'I am just returned here from Nantes) and recd. his appointment of Commissioner

the return of Dr Lee from Berlin with a true knowledge
of the temper of that Court (see the Doctors account of his
negotiation at Berlin to Congress) made it evident beyond
a doubt that pressing our affairs then, would rather irritate
than accelerate - The Prussian Minister having declared
that they must wait until France & Spain had taken
decisive steps - In the mean time Mr T. Morris died, and
Mr Deane himself signed a request to the Court to have
the papers of Mr Morris put into Mr Wm Lees hands, as
was, with the other Commissioners of opinion that Mr Lee
ought to return to Nantes and arrange the pub. comercial
affairs before he set out for Vienna - When Mr Lee returned
a second time from Nantes, he was compelled to wait the
conclusion of affairs with the Court of France, to get the
necessary papers for the better execution of his business,
and also the requisite sum for defraying his expences.
The latter Mr Deane was particularly concerned in with
holding under pretext of no orders, and yet knowing all
these things he would impose on the public, a belief that private
motives kept Mr Lee quiet. Mr Deane in his Narrative
verbal (notes of which many as well as myself took) informed
Congress that Cunninghame had orders to sail North about
to America, that his people mutinied and compelled him
to take prizes - Is this a reason for those Vessels continuing
so long to cruise on the French & Spanish Coasts, the p[rizes]
to be consigned to private hands, and the Vessels at la[st]
sold without order of Congress to private use? Looking
over ~~[illegible]~~ a paper sent
me by Dr Lee which is titled 'Estimate &c' I find that in
order to quiet doubts about the expenditure of the public
money; this paper contains on the debtor side all the large
Stores ordered by Congress, tho a fiftieth part was never
sent, a heavy charge for the Ship built in Holland
altho that Ship was taken off our hands and her cost
paid by the Court, yet no credit appears. I wish we
could see, and public justice demands it sh'd be pro=
=duced, an exact account with vouchers, of the goods

12 Jan '79

30000#

Bon pour la somme de trente Mils Livres que Je payray le trente de ce mois a l'ordre de Mr. Docteur Franklin valuer recue de M. Williams son Neveu. Passi ce 1r Janvier 1779. (signé). Leray de Chaumont

vrai Copie.
H. Lordsfet

20,000#

Bon pour la somme de vingt mils Livres que Je payray a la fin de fevrier prochain a l'ordre de M. Le Docteur Franklin valuer recue comptant de M. Williams son Neveu Passi ce 1r Janvier 1779. (signé)

Le Ray de Chaumont

vrai Copie.
H. Lordsfet

Chaillot Jan. 12. 1779.

The original paper from whence these were taken, and which was in the hand writing of M. de Chaumont, with which I am well acquainted; was given to me by Dr. Franklin in the memorandum Book of the Bills drawn by Congress on the Commissioners at the Court of Versailles, together with a number of other papers to copy. as I thought a copy of them might probably be of some service, in rectifying a charge in Mr. Williams's accounts against the public, amounting to 50000 Livres (the just amount also of these two promissory notes) & for which he credits himself as remitted to the said Chaumont to pay a private debt due to that Gentleman from the Commissioners; I ventured to take a copy of them. attest. H. Lordsfet

Paris
Arthur Lee Esq

Bordeaux 12 Jany 1779

Sir

Since my last of the 1st Instant I am not favord with any of yours. by last Post I wrote to the Commissioners you will peruse the Contents and to such articles as require Answering permit me to request your attention particularly touching the Convoy and departure of the Ships from Nantes who I expect ere this are Loaded and waiting sailing orders, the other parts are general Subjects and only given as occasional remarks drawn from the Situation and times

Letters from Paris say the English have found the means to make discord amongst the leading Members of the Ameri=can States General Washington has received some provoking Mortifications from Congress and the Commissioners at Paris Mr Franklin & Lee are in strong Opposition— no Vessels from Philadelphia is unaccountable the only one from that Port that I have knowledge of was Mr Morris's Sloop. Capt Bell arrived at Lorient and that on private Acct.

it is time to expect Mr Dean his Letters gave room to suppose ere this he would have been on this Side its probable unexpected difficulties prevents or Retards his

his prospects. We flattered ourselves the Spanish Letters of Yesterday would have given us accounts of some arrivals we are without any

I am respectfully
Sir
Your very Hbl Servant
John Bondfield

Arthur Lee Esqr.   Bilbao the 16th Janry 177[illegible]

Honoured Sir

We refer you wholy to what ha[illegible] pleasure of saluting you on the 23d december last since which have still the mortification to continue deprived of your Esteemed favours, therefore after communicating you with pleasure the departure hence on the 5th Instant of the Brigg North Starr Capt. Francis Fawson whome we most cordially wish a speedy & prosperous Navigation, have also to Informe you that this day haveing been presented us a purchaser for 12000 livers on Paris have [illegible] the liberty to draw on Mr Le Grand on your account Two bills Vizt. 6900.} 5100.} at 80 days datte in favour of Messrs Goossens & sons therefore request your giving the Directions to honour & discharge them at maturity, haveing placed the ammount thereof to your Credit at the Exchange of 77½s p ps in Riales 46633 & 26 mrs Vn which if right be pleased to debitt us for.

We are daily receiving Blanketts from Pal[illegible] which have a concidérable parcell ready packt in loadge, butt are sorry to say that no opportunity presents it self to have them shipt as quick as could

wish: rest assured good Sir that the first that offers will be Embraced by those who Subscrive with Sincere respects

Honoured Sir

your m^t affec^t ob^t hble Serv^ts

Joseph Gardoqui & sons

PS

Since writing the above, as we wantted to Ballance an Account with our mutuall freind Mr John Ross have also taken the freedome to value on M^r LeGrand three Bills Viz^t 13000. 12000. 10000 } In all 35000 livers at 90 days datte in favour of said Mr Ross therefore recommend them to your usuall punctuality request your [illegible]sing to our debitt the Ammount thereof at the [illegible] of 77½ [illegible] In rials 136015. & 6 m^rs of Vellon which your Account with us stands duelly Credited for &c.

The above Bills accepted

J'ay d'auttant moins De Raisons Monsieur, de [ne pas] payer la lettre de Change que vous a porté la femme Lafargue que Je Seray fort aise de L'echanger contre les letres de Change endossées par Son mari pour pareille Somme qu'on m'a envoyé de Londres. Je luy avais conseillé ce matin d'aller trouver M. Bancroft qui connoist L'arrangement de cette affaire. Je vous invite, Monsieur, a engager cette femme ou a venir demain Recevoir Son payment ou a aller trouver M. Bancroft.

J'ay l'honneur d'estre

Monsieur vostre tres humble Serviteur Lenay de chaumont

Passi ce 18. Janv[ier]. 1779

Mr Purdie (619) (No 375)

Sir,

It is expected by the public that you will comply with your promise of publishing impartially the papers on both sides in Mr Deanes controversy. If none but the collections of Mr Deanes Tory friends and Mercantile Abettors are to appear before the public, it is impossible that a fair and honest judgement can be formed. By particular desire you published in your Gazette of Jany 22 a piece signed Senex, but you have never favored the public with a complete and sensible answer to Senex published also in the Pennsylvania Packet. Perhaps you never received the latter, when you do, you will shew a candid character by publishing it, as well as all ~~[illegible]~~ the other pieces that have been written on this occasion. In the mean time, be so kind as to communicate thro your useful paper the following answer to Senex, which I pledge ~~myself~~ the reputation of an honest man to be the truth.

1 Question

The first question of Senex is "Whether Mr Arthur Lee is, or is not, Commissioner both to the Courts of Versailles and Madrid?

Answer No.

2d Question

Whether he was not an intimate Acquaintance of Dr Berkenhout corresponded with him on subjects of a political nature during Mr Lees residence at Paris, and gave him letters of introduction to his brother the hon. R. H. Lee?

answer Mr R. H. Lee has already answered the latter part of this question in the most positive manner No. And for the former part, it ~~[illegible]~~ is incumbent on Senex [to] prove that being an intimate Acquaintance with Dr Berkenhout was blameable, he should prove also that Dr Lee corresponded with Dr Berkenhout on political subjects, and that this political correspondence contained in it any thing criminal. Otherwise a just ~~[illegible]~~ and a candid man would suppose, until the contrary was proved, that Dr Berkenhout was not an unworthy Acquaintance, and that, as Dr Lee had displayed the strongest attachments to America his native Country, and had most ably supported its cause by his writings; ~~that~~ if such a correspondence had existed that it was not only innocent but laudable.

3d. Question — Whether Mr. Wm. Lee is, or is not, commissioner to the Courts of Vienna & Berlin, and commercial Agent for the Congress in Europe? ~~[illegible]~~ Mr. Lees letter to his friend in Congress date Novr. 21. 1777 from Nantz to this question the following ~~[illegible]~~ Nantes will ~~[illegible]~~ Answ?

Answer — "In fact the public business in this Country has been, & is likely to continue in strange disorder nor is it likely to mend untill the Secret Committee confine all their Mercantile business to their Mercantile agent and keep the Commissioners to their Political duty which may be neglected from too much attention to private schemes of Commerce on public funds, and contemptible private jobs — I am now out of the question, therefore cannot be charged with partiality in my advice — I shall from henceforth take my leave of this department, keeping my attention entirely confined to the charge which is committed to my care"

The truth is, that Mr. Lee understood, as did every body else, that his political had superseded his commercial appointment — The reason was evident — The scene of commerce was in France, that of Politics far off in Germany. It is also true, that altho Mr. Wm. Lee had thus in Novr. ~~quitted~~ as he expresses it, taken his leave of the commercial department" yet the Commissioners at Paris whom were directed to furnish him with copies of the treaties to propose to Vienna & Berlin, delaying to do this, ~~untill~~ the and other political obstructions intervening to stay Mr. Lees journey north, untill the death of Mr. Thos. Morris, the surviving Comml. Agent in France, ~~oblige Mr. Lee~~, obliged Mr. Lee to visit Nantes before he left France to ~~[illegible]~~ put the pub. affairs in some order ~~[illegible]~~ for which purpose ~~[illegible]~~ Mr. Deane as well as the other Commissioners solicited & obtained a royal order to put the papers of Mr. Morris into the hands of Mr. Lee — Whilst Mr. Lee was at Nantes he appointed Merchants of unquestioned reputation and fortune in the respective ports to do ~~[illegible]~~ the public business, ~~at the [illegible]~~ at each of them, untill the pleasure of Congress should be known — This done, he returned to Paris, and thence to Vienna — Mr. Williams was not an Agent appointed by Congress or its Committee, therefore And you Sir ~~[illegible]~~ with Mr. Deane best know whether Mr. Deane is not concerned his commission is not known here — That Mr. Lee made such for Trade with Mr. Williams — contracts with the Agents as Mr. Deane mentions no candid Man will believe untill Mr. Deane produces proofs because he professes that he is writing against Men whom he calls his enemies — If friendship for the public is enmity to Mr. Deane these gentlemen are not to blame for it — They contend for the settlement of the public accounts that it may be clearly seen how the public treasure has been expended.

The next Question concerning the ~~[illegible]~~ Deane[?] ~~[illegible]~~ if possible more ridiculous than the rest —

4th Question Whether this Gentleman did not, since his appointment to Offices of public trust under the United States, hold his Office of Alderman in the City of London, and whether ~~[illegible]~~ he does not still hold that Office

Ansr. Mr. Wm. Lee is a native of Virga. the bulk of his fortune, and that not inconsiderable, is in Virginia — He is known both in America & London to have been the firm invariable friend of America and Opposer of the British measures — He was an Alderman of London, which place and his Aldermanship he quitted with all possible ~~[illegible]~~ despatch as soon as he knew his country had occasion for his services on the Continent of Europe for the same Vol where Deane & his party find Mr. Lee and Alderman of London, he may find Dunmore Govr. of Virginia, Tryon of New York, Martin of N. Carolina &c. But tho the ideas of Whiggism ~~justice~~ which govern Deane & his party incline them to condemn the friends of America for the publications of ~~the~~ the Common enemy; it is to be presumed that the free and virtuous Citizens of America entertain very different ideas of justice. They will consider the characters of men, not by what the enemy publish, or a factious junto, but ~~they~~ will let them stand or fall in their opinion by facts clearly proved, and not by malicious suppositions, suggestions, and dark innuendos — If the Servants of the public are to be condemned in this manner, if such little Manœuvres are to destroy the reputation of Men who came into their Countrys cause from the beginning & have been among the foremost in supporting it — If such shall be the case, I fear Virtue will retire, and the public affairs be conducted by Men whose councils will tread back with great quickness those steps to glorious independence which the characters now abused have trodden with so much uniformity.

~~Before I ~~[illegible]~~ conclude, I must observe, that Dr. Franklin was before Dr. Lee ~~[illegible]~~ Comr. both for France & Spain, that he ~~[illegible]~~ declined the journey to Spain in winter 1776 — that~~

Before I conclude I must observe that Dr. Franklin

was appointed in the winter of 1776 Commissioner for Spain, and continued in his appointment for France at the same time. that in the summer following, Congress being informed by the Commrs that they had agreed Dr Lee shd go to Spain, and that he was actually gone there, the like powers were sent to him that were formerly sent to Dr Franklin. When the conclusion of the Alliance had ~~put~~ finished the business of the Commission in France, Congress appointed Dr Franklin Minister Pleni=
=potentiary to France, which most effectually superceded all former commissions as well to Mr Adams as to Dr Lee And this was done sometime before Mr D. publish[ed] and not unknown to him it is presumed, as it was generally known in Philadelphia. What now Seneca must the honest and candid part of the world think of you and your friend for thus attempting to impose upon the "free and virtuous Citizens of ~~America~~ the United States ~~of~~ America"!?

Detector.

(No 275)

[illegible] Dr Lee

Answer to Seneca To [illegible]

13
3
39
13
52

39
15
24

Nantes January 19th 1779

I am much obliged for the letter which you have honoured me with, of the 14th Inst. I must confess, that it appears to me to be an affair of consequence to have the export, and import Duties made known by authority, as also the occasional alterations and in such a manner so as effectually to prevent impositions, at any Port in the Kingdom. I have enquired, but cannot find, that any of the Merchants are possessed of the Ordinances which regulate the Duties, and I am informed that they are obliged to pay whatever the Clerks at the Custom House please to tell them. This mode is so very dissimilar to that which the American Merchants have been accustomed to the practise of, that it is not easily reconciled. I have no doubt, but that your best endeavours have been exerted to get this matter, as well as every other which has a tendency to promote the interest and prosperity of your Country fixed and established upon a proper footing and I can only lament that your assiduity has not been attended with success

and you will properly supported — I do not apprehend that the Americans have been compelled to pay more Duties than others and therefore I do not think it necessary to trouble you with an account of what they have paid. But I will endeavour to possess myself with what is demanded for the several articles of American produce, tho' I believe it will not be in my power to obtain it.

As a General Letter is by this post address'd to the Honble Commission in reply to theirs of the 10th Ins^t, it renders a more particular information to you at present unnecessary. If the Commissioners should think proper to honour us with another letter you will be pleased to have it directed under cover to the Agent.

Mr Blake & Mr Lloyd and the Gentlemen join in respectful Compliments to you with

Dear Sir

Your most Obed^t Servt

John Lloyd

P S

after having sealed this letter, I was obliged to open it, to inform you that the answer which was prepared and signed to The Honble Commissioners, it is determined by the Subscribers to defer transmitting it, till the next post ——

Honble Sir

Previous to the opening of the trunk, which contains Mr Morris's papers and books, I conceived it prudent, to have it put untouched, (in the condition brought from Paris, plumbed & sealed.) into the possession of the Greffier; to have them all examined, and received first by him, conformable to the List he has in office of them, and agreeable to the Notes made on each by himself, when delivered to Mr Lee. — Accordingly, this examination being finished, under Legal authority, and the proofs of Records, it has been intimated to me, that papers are wanting in three destinct bundles. — Therefore, as it appears by Notes, of your Brothers own hand writing, that those bundles and others had been taken out by him for inspection, and returned thereafter at different times, before the removal of the trunk (as I apprehend) to his Lodgeings at the Hottel. — Not improbable but those papers wanting, have been selected apart by him, and ommited to be returned with the others in their places, when he formed the Sudden resolution of haveing the trunk Sealed, and carryed off to Paris. — Whether they are of a public or private Nature. The order of the Congress directs the delivery of the whole of the papers and Books to the order of Robert Morris Esq. — Be pleased in consequence thereof, to advise your Brother, that a certain number of the papers are wanting, of those taken

out.

out by him for inspection, and if in his possession, or left with You, I expect they shall be sent me as soon as possible, to have them with the rest of the papers. — I realy wish they had not been out of their places, it being in fact, by no means an agreeable Subject of correspondence to me, Nevertheless, as I am in duty bound, to discharge a truste commited to me by an absent friend, it is incumbent on me to notifye this deficiency, and if the papers are returned to me, to be preserved for the Gentlemen whose property they are, as they may be of infinite service in the Setlement of their business, their being kept out of the trunk may be considered of little importance. I am with the Respect due by

Honble Sire

Your very humble Servant

[illegible]

Nantes 19th January 1779

The Honble Arthur Lee Esqre

19

Monsieur

En me referant à ma derniere du 16. court. j'ai l'honneur de repondre à celui des votres des 10. & 12. Nard. la premiere reçue par Capn. Meredith avec les diverses quittances que vous m'avez renvoyé des Navires La Depêche, l'Espion, & le Baltimore — Mon Gendre a parlé au Capn. Niles qui luy a dit être persuadé que le rapport du Capn. Corsaire par le quel il a été pris, étoit un rapport en l'air & dit au hazard, l'ayant apperçu dans la suite de ses discours; aussi mon gendre vat-il sur des Certificats que Capn. Niles luy a promis faire appeller le dit Corsaire en Justice pour le faire Contraindre, de declarer que son dit rapport étoit sans fondement — Le Pilote Gyffingham

est

toujours icy je n'ai pas osé l'envoyer à bord à Painbeuf parceque là il ne seroit plus sous mes yeux & pourroit bien plus aisément decamper ce que je ne crois pourtant pas, il osera, en tout cas je me tiens pour avisé d'y substituer Le Capne Meredith —

J'ai de nouveau parlé a Mrs Lacosta & Cie Ils repondent ne pouvoir prendre sur Eux l'assurance pour raison qu'ils ne trouveroient point d'assureurs pour une aussi forte somme qu'ils disent pouvoir aller à seize mille Ecus, que d'ailleurs ils seroient obligés en cas d'arrivée du Navire de debourser de prime peut être une somme de 150 mille Livres dont ils ne peuvent se mettre en avance, en sus du Montant des effets qu'ils ont a envoyer;
Que leur premier accord étoit qu'ils chargeroient le tout pour compte & risque des Etats de Virginie sans se charger de rien à ce sujet, & qu'ils ne peuvent s'ecarter de cette Condition, Que pour le reste

tout

étoit prêt à être embarqué

Le Procureur à qui j'ai remis l'affaire de la Therese m'a donné pour raison avoir été malade, mais m'assure que cela seroit mis devant le Juge cette semaine & je ne doute nullement d'obtenir une condamnation contre ceux qui ont osé s'emparer ainsi d'une Marchandise dont ils n'avoient par droit de disposer, c'est en effet un trait d'une temerité sans pareille

Ci joint je retourne une lettre que vous m'avez cy devant envoyé p. Cap.ⁿ Ralls, ce Cap.ⁿ n'étant plus icy & étant embarqué avec Cap.ⁿ Elliot

J'ai l'honneur d'être très parfaittement

Monsieur

Votre tres humble et tres obt Servtan
J. D. Schweighauser

Nantes 19 Juin 1779

Le Cap.ⁿ Niles après avoir promis à mon Gendre le certificat mentionné en l'autre part, le refuse a present je ne sçai par quelle raison, il en aura sans doute conferé avec son intime ami icy, mais il devroit bien soutenir ce qu'il a avancé ou

Il sembleroit que la chose n'est pas vraye ou qu'il veut menager le Corsaire, c'est pourquoy je vous prierai de voulou me donner un Certificat du rapport fait par le dit Niles a Messieurs les Ministres plenipotentiaires pour la dessus pouvoir agir contre led^t Corsaire.

Des quatre navires que je vous ai marqué par ma derniere avoir été expediés par Mrs Da Costa freres, il n'y en a qu'un qui étoit destiné p^r l'Amerique du Nord, savoir La Ménagère qui a été prise, les 3 autres sont allé effectivem^t à la Martinique & doivent en revenir

A son Excellence M. le Comte de Vergennes

A Chaillot le 20 Janv.r 1779

The fleet from Cork in Ireland, of which I had the honor to write to your Excellency the 8th. of this month, is not yet entirely sailde. Twenty four sail are gone for America & the Islands under the Escott of two Frigates. A s[illegible] number will sail this month for the W. Indies, & the [illegible] fleet for America & the Islands will sail towards [illegible] end of next. This I am informed of by letters from England, & I see by a letter from the Secretary of the Admiralty in England that a Convoy is promised as soon as possible after the 20th. of Feb.y I will endeavor to inform myself in time of the strength of this Convoy & apprise your Excellency of it.

I have the honor to be &c

Letter Book V. 4. p: 213. the Original in French.

The Honble. the Committee of foreign Correspondence

Paris Jan.y 20th. 1779 / Ge[illegible]men

The grand provision Fleets from Corke for New-York & the Islands, will sail towards the end of next month. I believe their Convoy will be two Frigates & a Ship of the line. It is however uncertain whether the latter will be spared. If a Squadron could be sent strong enough to intercept these fleets it would be a mortal blow to their future operations. I have the honor to be &c &c

A. L.

Letter Book V. 4. p. 214.

Je recois Monsieur le billet que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire hier et je m'empresse de vous remercier des notions qu'il renferme. je les fais passer à M. de Sartine comme pouvant lui être utiles.

j'ai l'honneur d'être avec une parfaite considération Monsieur, Votre tres humble et tres obeissant serviteur.

De Vergennes

a Versailles le 21 janvier 1779.

Translation

I received, Sir, the Note which you did me the honor to write me yesterday, & I hasten to thank you for the information it contains. I have sent it to M. de Sartine[a] as it may be useful to him. I have the honor to be &c &c

signed De Vergennes

(a) M. de Sartine was minister of marine.

See a copy of my note on the other side

M. Lee a Passy

Letter Book N. 4. p. 203. Honble B. Franklin & John Adams

Gentlemen Jany 22d 1779 (No 279)

Mr Montheiu called on me yesterday, but I was too ill to see him. I suppose it was to urge the payment of his demand, which I am by no means yet satisfyed is due. The Papers he has given in, instead of vouching it, render it suspected. The only true & sufficient Voucher is the receit which Mr Williams did give, or ought to have given to Mr Peltier du Doyer at the time he says he deliverd to him the goods charged to the Public. It is impossible that men one year engaged in Merchandize, could have faild the one asking & the other giving a Receit for goods really deliverd. It is to no purpose to remark the contradictions & defects of the Papers given in. They are abundant, but the want of the necessary & usual receit gives such an appearance to the business that I cannot think myself justifiable in giving my consent to pay the demand. I am only sorry that I have consented to the payment of so much already on the faith of a man who had no receit to shew.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect & esteem &c &c A L.

P.S. The delivery of Mr Williams's receit is the more necessary, as it is that only which shoud satisfy us, that the Articles deliverd were for the public & make Mr Williams accountable for them, as having been received by him for the public use. The evidence Mr Peltier has given in to us, says only, that he deliverd certain Articles to Mr Williams, but not to whose use nor with any mark or numbers, nor has it any date.

year, month, day or place. We know perfectly well that Mr
Williams was shipping goods for himself & others as well as
for the Public. It might therefore be true that M. Peltier did
deliver such goods, but it will not enable us to determine
for which of these uses they were delivered. Neither does Mr
Williams in his Letter say that what he received was for
the ~~said~~ public use, nor does he specify what he has
received, so as to render himself liable for the re-delivery.

(a) N.B. M. Montieu had assured us that he had the
receit & would send it to us.

L'Orient 15th May 1780 Examined with
the Letter book & found to be a true Copy
John G. Frazer — Joseph Brown Junr.

V. 4. p. 153. The Honble Dr B. Franklin M. Plenipot.

Sir/ Paris March 16th 1779

I had the honor of receiving yours of the 13th
touching my endorsement on your Nephew's Accounts.

When Mr Bondfield's Accounts were sent to the
Commissioners I examined them with the Vouchers &
endorsed upon them the observations which occurred
to me. I compared M. Schweighauser's Accounts with
the original Vouchers & Receits which lay two months
at Passy & were then returned to him as he desired. In
these Accounts I found no Errors. Upon M. Montieu's
giving in his demand, I objected his not having pro-
duced a receit from our Agent to vouch the delivery
of the Articles for which he demanded payment. He was
agreed that this was proper, & he promised to produce
such a receit. What he some time afterwards sent us
as such was dated a year after the alledged delivery
of the Goods, was in the form of a Letter from Mr Williams
& conceived in such terms as could neither satisfy

us that the things charged had been recieved nor render your Nephew responsible for them to the Public. I gave in my objection to this as unsatisfactory.

Upon examining the first accounts given in by your Nephew, which was six months after the goods had been shipt, I found a darkness & inaccuracy which I had never seen in Accounts before, & that they were not accompanied with either Bills of Loading, or receits to elucidate & support them. I stated my objections in writing. The Answers neither informd nor satisfyd me. It appears too that you yourself, Sir, was convincd that these Accounts, as they stood could not be passt, because tho you agreed to pay him the bal-lance he demanded, you stated in the order, that this payment was not to be considerd as any ap-probation of his Accounts, nor prevent Mr Williams from being accountable to Congress, or the Commissioners for the expenditure of the Sums entrusted to him. His Ac-counts from the first Livre he receivd to the last, which as far as I can trust my memory exceeds a million, & the time is more than two years, remain in the same unsettled State.

When your Nephew sent us his 2d Account which was in Sepr or Octr last I examind it also, & reported my opinion endorsd on the Account itself, on purpose that you might not examine it without seeing my observations. The Account so endorsd, I returnd immediately to Passy. It is therefore singularly un-fortunate that you shoud not have seen this endorsment, in the course of near six months, <u>'till lately & by accident</u>, as you inform me, & that I shoud have incurrd some degree of your censure

as not having "shewn it to you when made, & there by occasioning the matter to have been so long neglected"

(No 279)

Copy from Letter Book (Jan 22d 1779)

In all this, Sir, I acted equally to all, from the irresistible motives of duty to the Public as a Commissioner; & have been unhappy enough to have seen it taken up personally, & subject me to the greatest ill-will & abuse. You must therefore excuse me, Sir, now that it is no longer my indispensible duty, from concerning myself with a business which is in much abler hands. If Congress should call upon me for farther reasons than those I have already given, it will then be my duty to act & I will obey — But as this has been made a personal matter, I shall expect, as an act of justice, to have a copy of your Nephew's Accounts, as settled by the impartial persons, to whom you do me the favor to inform me, you mean to refer them.

L'Orient 15th May 1780 Examined with the Letter book & found to be a true Copy

John G. Frazer Joseph Brown Junr

V. 3. p. 45. P.S. to the Letter to Count de Vergennes Jany 8th 1779

Mes Lettres d'Angleterre annoncent qu'une flotte de cent vingt vaisseaux avec des provisions pour les Isles angloises doit partir de Corke en peu de tems sur l'escorte de deux vaisseaux de ligne & une Fregate.

L'Orient 15th May 1780 Examined with the Letter book & found to be a true Copy

John G. Frazer Joseph Brown Junr

Nantes Jany 23d 1779

Dear Sir

I have received your letters of the 7 & 15 Inst with sundry papers. As it has ever been my desire to be thought worthy of esteem by Men of honor and probity, I am therefore happy to observe, that you are pleased to have so high an opinion of my patriotism, and abilities. I have a confidence in my integrity of Heart respecting its attachment to the true Interest, and prosperity of the United States, but I lament that my want of ability prevents me from testifying, as I could wish its prevalent inclination.

The information which you have given me is important and commands the serious attention of every Friend to America — I am afraid that the Stream of iniquity runs at present too rapid to be stoped but it is the duty of every good Citizen to endeavour to check its destructive progress, and you may therefore depend, that I

shall

shall as much as possible watch its motions, for the good purposes which you mention.

It is not yet clear to me that the Envoye will proceed; and I am confident he will not, if what I hear reported should prove true respecting the new arrangement that Congress has made in Europe, at all events, I imagine that he will wait for some certain information relative thereto; indeed, I am of opinion that the knowledge is essential for to conduct their plan with satisfaction.

As I find your letters are opened, I do not think it prudent for me to mention names, or to be particular in my observations about the Society.

You may depend that I shall not fail to make known in America the principles and conduct of the Da Costas, and do every thing in my power to prevent their having an opportunity to impose upon others.

I am sorry to inform you, that the frost continues very severe. The Compliments of your friends are returned, and with many thanks for your kind wishes, I have the honour to be with sincere esteem Dear Sir Your most obed. Serv.

John Lloyd

24 Jan '79

Sir,

Being desirous of thoroughly understanding M. Monthieu's Accounts, which I am much press'd by him to settle, I request you would please to send me by the Bearer all the Papers you have relating to it. — I should be glad also to have Mr Grand's first Accounts, with Mr Deane's Remarks upon them. —

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient
humble Servant

B Franklin

Passy, Jan. 24. 79

Honorable Arthur Lee Esqr

Sir Chaillot Jany 24th 1779

Mr. Montheius Accounts & Papers were at Passy when I saw them last.

The public Accounts were there also, & if they do not remain there still, I apprehend Mr. Grand has them the large one being signed by Mr. Deane which he therefore wished to keep. But I am confident you had a Copy of it, & that he will let you [illegible] the same. The only public Papers in my possession are Mr. Deane's Remarks which I have the honor of enclosing.

I have the honor to be
Sir, Y^r most Obed^t Humble Servt
A. Lee

The Honble Benjn Franklin Esq.

(No 282)

In Congress 26th January 1779 —

The hon.ble Wm. M. Smith laid before Congress sundry papers, which he informed the House contained matters of public information and which the delegates of Virginia were instructed to lay before Congress, the papers being read are

1. An Account, headed "Sums advanced for the State of Virginia by the hon.ble Arthur Lee Esqr." dated September 3d. 1778. and under=signed "a true Copy H. Ford Secy." – on which is endorsed as follows "The delegates from the State of Virginia are instructed to lay this paper before Congress, with a view to inform them that Hezekiah Ford who signs it as Secretary to the hon.ble Arthur Lee, hath been and is considered by the Governor & Council of this State as an Enemy to the American Cause of Independance, and by no means a fit person to be near the person of an American Commissioner in Europe or entrusted with any of the Secrets of the United States or of their Allies. January 25th. 1779. —

Ordered That the Committee of foreign Affairs communicate to the hon.ble Arthur

Lee

Lee by the first opportunity of the purport of the above endorsement

Extract from the Minutes
Cha Thomson Secy

1775

Philada. Janry. 26. 1779

Sir

The inclosed Information is of singular Importance to you. I therefore forward it instantly Via Boston, and will add some further if the Post is not too quick for me.

Your most humble Servant

James Lovell
for the Commtee. for for: Affrs.

Honble

COLONIES

BREST

Arthur Lee Esqr

Commissioner &c

Paris or Vienna ~~Boston~~

a M. franklin pour savoir
l'adresse de M. Lee.

rue guenegault hotel des pagne

Committee for
foreign Affairs
1777-78-79

Rec'd the 17th August 1779
Richard H Lee.

(No 282)

James Lovell
to
Arthur Lee
(26 Jan: 1779.)

Nantes le 26 Janvier 1779.

(N° 280)

Monsieur

Je suis encore forcé de vous interrompre pour vous prier de demander a Mr le Prince de Montbarrey, un Triquebal, instrument qui sert a transporter les grosses pieces de canon, Mechanique très essentielle a introduire aux Etats unis; comme c'est un objet de peu de consequence, il ne sera nulle difficulté de vous l'accorder de suitte d'autant que c'est au Chateau de Nantes qu'on les construit; Veillez je vous prie, Monsieur, faire cette demande le plus promptement possible; car les glaces commencent a partir et sous 15. jours au plus tard tout sera chargé a bord du Navire le Ministre a donné ordre au commandant du Chateau de donner une Statue ainsi que vous l'avez demandé. Vous m'aviez parlé dans une

de vos Lettres que la malle du pilote viendroit
par la diligence comme elle n'est point Encore
arrivé, ayez la complaisance de donner vos ordres
pour la faire partir, cet homme ayant besoin
de ses Effets.

J'ai l'honneur d'etre avec un profond respect

Monsieur

Votre très humble et
très obeissant serviteur
Le Maire

(No 280)

Le Maire
26th Janr 73

Lemaire that
the Look is orderd

Je reconnois avoir reçû de Monsieur Arthur Lee, Député du Congrès, la somme de Quatre Vingt Mille, huit Cent Livres, dont je crediterai son Compte chez moy des Etats Unis, particulier

Paris ce 29 Janvr. 1779

Grand

(Triplicate (No 281)

Philada. Jany. 26th 1779

No 1

Sir

The inclosed information is of singular importance to you. I therefore forward it instantly via Boston, and will add some further if the Post is not too quick for me

Your most humble
Servant

Hon. Arthur Lee
Esqr.

James Lovell
for the Comtee of for. Affrs.

Copy No 2

Philada. Jany. 29th 1779

Sir

What I could not add to my Letter of the 26th via Boston, I now inclose. It will explain to you all we know here in regard to your Secretary Ford.

I am affectionately your Friend

Hon. Arthur Lee
Esqr.

James Lovell
for the Comtee of for: Affairs

(No 281) James Lovell
to
Arthur Lee
(26 & 29 Jan.y 1779.)

1778

Honble Arthur Lee

Bilbao 30th Jany 1779

Dear Sir

Your very much esteem'd favour 4th Ins^t came to hand a post after our house drew on M^r Le Grand the bills then mention'd in Mr Ross's favour, however it being the produce of a cargoe of flour which when you recomended said Gentleman to me he wrote me it belong'd to your Congress, I doubt not but you have acomodated the same easly with said freind, which shall be glad to hear.

Your favour 13th Ins^t is also come to hand & am sincerely sorry to see your continental funds so reduced, as our Manufacterers will oblige us to stand to our agreements, so that I hope you will exert yourgoodselves to reimburse for what our house has already advanced & will be obliged to advance dayly for I fear it will be a difficult matter to gett it from your freinds on this side, however as I am always ready to serve you to the

utmost I made my aplication to them on the most pressing terms, & have repeated the same on sight of your last letter, I therefore wait for an answer in a post or two, & wish sincerely it may be a favourable one. & you may depend on my communicating to you without fail.

It is with pleasure I see the french fleet under D'Estaing was at liberty to actt against your Enemeis, & hope he will ymprove it better than on his first out sett, so pray lett me know if you learn any thing new, & you may depend on haveing what ocurrs on this side, where we dayly lookk out for some of the vessells belonging to your part of the world.

The fleetts at Cadiz & Ferrol are dayly encreasing, but as I aprehend you are well acquainted therewith as well as other matters have only to add my best wishes for your prosperety & subscrive sincerely

Dear Sir
Your most Ob.t h.ble serv.t
James Gardoqui

Nantes Jan 31 [illegible]

Honourable Gentlemen (No 277)

I am well informed that two Indorsements [illegible] been made on the acco.ts I have had the honour to present to the Commissioners one of which contains accusations as injurious to my reputation as they are false & malignant. the first of these Indorsements is on my Acco.t dated Sept.r 10 1778 and is written in the following words.

" N3. The order from B. Franklin & John Adams Esq.rs to the " public Banker for the payment of all Mr Williams Demands is " the 10th July, yet he charges a Louis d'or a Day from that time [illegible] the " August besides the whole charge being such as was never heard [illegible]

(Signed) A [illegible]

The Charge here mentioned appears to me reasonable [illegible] no means unprecedented, I left Nantes by order of the Commissioners [illegible] my acco.ts before them, I was a long time in Paris for the sole [illegible] having them settled, and I returned as soon as I thought myself [illegible] in so doing. Five Louis p Day is certainly not an object for a Merchant [illegible] Absence from his business.

The Second Indorsement contains Accusations of a most criminal [illegible] atrocious Nature, and which if true would deservedly brand me with the [illegible] of Villain. but I trust in God my Character (hitherto unimpeached) [illegible] Stand the piercing Eye of Justice, and this, and this Appellation be else[illegible] more effectually applied.

On the Back of my Acco.ts Settled may 30 1778 is thus written

" At [illegible] Chaillot 6 of October 177[illegible]

" I have examined the within Acco.ts the Articles of [illegible] be dist[illegible] " into [illegible] are without orders or manifestly [illegible] plainly ex[illegible] " or altogether unsatisfactory for want of Nam[illegible]es or Receipts [illegible] " other Voucher whatsoever. Being also perfectly Satisfied from h[illegible] " Acco.ts that Mr Williams has now & has long had in his hands [illegible] " an hundred Thousand Livers belonging to the Public, and which h[illegible] " employed to the Public Use or by order of those who were entrusted with [illegible] " Money, I do refuse to concur in passing these acco.ts or allowing [illegible] " demanded, & do protest against such use of the Public Money

(Signed) A Lee

This violent Attack on what is most Dear & valuable [...]
man, was so privately made, that I am indebted to Accident only [...]
knowledge of it. He who can deliberately massacre the Reputation of an-
other, must not only be lost to the exquisite Feelings of Humanity in [...]
but must delight in glutting his Soul with the Carnage of Characters.

The Accusation of my Transactions being without Authority is an Affront to the Characters of Doctor Franklin & Mr. Dean, for I have their express orders to Support me in them, but if I had not, would the Sending Cloathing for thirty Thousand American Troops be considered as a Crime?

That my Charges are "exorbitant" I deny & I pledge myself to prove that the whole Profit issueing to me from the Public Business for eighteen months [...] for Shipping Supplies to the Amount of near Three Millions two [...]ed Thousand Livers (of which only about two hundred Thousand Livers [...] taken) does not exceed an averaged Commission of one and a quarter [...]ent. Compare this Gentlemen, with the common charges on American [...]iness in Nantes, and you will find that if five ℔ cent was to be [...]ged only on the Sale of Three Cargoes of Tobacco (and this is the usual Charge), it would more than equal all the reward of all my Services.

In Short the being usefull to my Country & the Establishment of my reputation, have been considerations with me superior to any Emolument as is evinced by the moderate Commission I charged.

Mr. Lee's Assertion that I have upwards of an hundred Thousand [...]ivers Public Money in my hands, I have Charity to think he does [...]ot believe to be a Fact, and Surely the protest is an insult on you who have approved my Drafts, for the Money which is here Said to be used for private purposes.

My [...]ter, Gentlemen, has been too long wounded by Mr. Lee [...] my Accts. [...] unsettled, and as it is my intention [...] depart [...] to America [...]bly conjure you to fix on some [...] [...]ction can be vindicated from such unjust Slanders, or my conduct [...]rectly apprehended and condemned; to this purpose as the Major part [...] the public Debts, under my management were contracted in & near [...]antes, and as the persons live in this Neighbourhood, I earnestly [...]equest you to order an Examination of my Accts. There are here several Gentlemen of character residents of America, who are well versed in commercial Transactions. permit me to mention their Names.

William Blake, Mr. Daniel Blake, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kendall, Mr. Wharton, Mr. Ridley, Mr. Ross, Mr. Lloyd & Mr. Ogi[illegible]

Choose if you please, all these Gentlemen to Scrutinize my charges and Vouchers, or refer them to any three of them, and I will recall every Allowance for my Services, whether under the Name of Commission or otherwise, and for these as well as for the whole of my Accts. I will abide by their Decision.

It is Justice I want — Justice is my Due — and it is equ[ally] indifferent to me who are my Judges so that Honesty & Impar[tiality] are the Umpires.

I have the honour to be with the greatest [illegible]

Honourable Gentlemen

Your most obedien[t]

& most humble Serva[nt]

Jon. Willia[ms]

Copy

This Letter was sent to Mr. Lee the 8th of March 17[illegible] when most of the within named Gentlemen were very busily employed in packing up their Cloths &c [illegible] der an expectation of embarking for America, the day [illegible] — I [illegible] [illegible] that only Mr. Ridley, Mr. Chrs. [illegible] W. Wharton & [illegible] Ross are to continue after [illegible] in this Kingdom.

A. Lord

The Honble.
B. Franklin & Jno. Adams

1779.

J. Williams
to
Hon: Com^rs. U.S.
(Jan: 31st 1779.)

(No 277)

Mr. Ross presents his Compl^ts^ to the Honble Arth: Lee, and incloses a letter for his Brother Wm. Lee Esqr. requesting the favour of its being properly directed, and forwarded by post, as Mr. Ross has not got his address. —

Nantes —
2d. February 1779

Je suis comblé de Joie, Monsieur,
d'apprendre que vous etes en meilleure santé
J'iray vous en feliciter aussitot qu'il me
sera possible. vous connoissez Monsieur
mon sincere et inviolable attachement

4 f.e 1779

Voulez vous bien avoir la bonté de
faire passer ce billet a mr franklin

Passy Feb. 7. 1779

Sir

I should be obliged to you to let Mr
Franklin take a Copy of our Letter
to the Comte de Vergennes, relative to
sending a Naval Force to America.

The original Draught you have, which I should
be obliged to you to send to me at Nantes
after Mr Franklin has taken a Copy of it.
as I have no Copy of it, at all, I am
with great Respect, your humble
Servant
John Adams

Hon. Arthur Lee Esq.

by young Mr Franklin

This letter was delivered to me open, in the presence of Henry Grand at Passy March the 20th 1779. Informing me at the same time that it was a letter from Mr. Adams desiring a Copy of that letter which the Commissioners wrote to Count de Vergennes relative to sending a ~~[illegible]~~ naval ~~Ships~~ force to America. Paris. March. 20. 1779.

A

H. Ford

7 Feb. 1779

Sir

I have to beg pardon for the liberty I take in troubling you in particular on a Subject you are well acquainted with, and which the Commissioners chuse not to take any Notice of, but the Unhappy Situation in which I find myself, forces me to take some Method to procure relief.

I am well persuaded that if the public Money had been at your disposal, my first representation would have been attended to & I shoud have reced the supplies necessary for an Officers Support according to his Rank, (considering that I have been unavoidably detained here & have yet had no Opportunity of going away)

I will not take up your time by informing you that without receiving from somebody Supplies to enable me to discharge my just & only necessary debts, it will be impossible for me to avail myself of the opportunity which will shortly offer; but apply to you alone for that

Relief which as being joined with others was not in your power to grant; If you will be kind enough Sir, to give me an Order for One thousand Livres or twelve hundred, on your Correspondent here, I will give to him an Order on the president of Congress payable to You for that Sum, with the Exchange; Or if you think of any othe Mode of repayment more convenient to you I will with pleasure adopt it —. I flatter myself this Sum will not appear extravagant when you — consider the length of Time I have been here waiting with impatience an opportunity of going away.

I could have applied to some americans here but I know they can all of them ill spare Money at this — Time — therefore I have no other Way left — and the — Consequences of not discharging what is justly & — reasonably due are too well known to you for me to hint what a shock to the feelings of a generous — Mind ~~feels~~ a thought of such an Event can create.

I am even in this application sensibly hurt, but as only misfortune & not disgrace, attends my situation

I am somewhat easier, than if it had been brought upon me by imprudence or Misconduct.

If you are kind enough to comply with my request You may rely on the sacred Word of honour that your repayment shall be my first consideration & I am sure you are well enough acquainted with the course of the World to imagine that no one, for such a length of time as I have, woud attempt to make you believe that he was in the Continental service unless he was really so; besides there now Many officers here who can bear me testimony. Had I been from the Northern parts of America I perhaps shoud have saved You this trouble, but being unluckily, (at present), from the Southward, I can only ask you again pardon for the trouble I have given you, and assure you that I am with great Respect

Sir

Your most obedient
and very humble Servant

Jno. Gilbank

Please direct for me by return of Post "Chez Madame Boucher a la Fosse"

Nantes 7th Febry 1779

form a 14th. — The president declared in a very strong manner that such was his opinion, and that in seeking for a line of separation it would be found ready made by the limits of Georgia, & the other English Colonies, such as they existed at the beginning of the Revolution.

Feb. 7th. — Of this date there is a letter from Mr A. Lee denying all the charges made against him in Deane's pamphlet, which had just come to Paris, and desiring Ct. Vergennes to prevent its being published in the Courier de l'Europe

Feb. 11th. — A long letter from Mr. Adams to Ct. Vergennes on the same subject — vindicating Mr Lee — declaring his long acquaintance with him, & his two brothers in Congress (R. H. & Lightfoot) & bearing testimony to their patriotism & good character. The letter is important in this connexion. — The answer dated Feb. 13th. —

From M. Gerard. — Proposed attack on Georgia, — exposition of the 4th. article of the Treaty.

---

12 feb. G. to C. V. After the loss of Savannah & Georgia, Congress had a plan of making an attempt to recover this state by sending an army there. They wished the assistance of France. Ct. d'Estaing had gone to the West Indies, and the Congress applied to M. Gerard to desire d'Estaing to send 4 frigates to operate against the enemy on the coast of Carolina & Georgia. M. Gerard replied, that this would weaken Ct d'Estaings squadron too much, & moreover would not be sufficient to meet the enemy's forces at the south, — and moreover, that this would in any case be an extraordinary service, which according to the treaty would demand a compensation from the U. S. The following is an account of this interview

My dear Sir

100
Superb Content!

It is so long a time since I wrote to you that it is necessary for me to apologize to you, & tell you that it proceeded from my being detained near six Weeks after the Assembly rose by bad Weather before I could get Home. The chief Part of the Time I was at Mount Airy with our Friend Col. Tayloe, whose Strength (I am sorry to tell you) declines fast; tho' I cannot perceive any material Change in his Intellects.

You ask me if I was not surprized at Mr. Deane's Publications? nothing ever astonished me more. I could not easily perswade myself that there lived a Man so hardy as thus openly to arraign Characters, which were so respectable, & which had successfully opposed all the wicked Attempts of a powerful & designing Party. I really thought that it was an Artifice of our Enemies to induce the World to believe that public Virtue had forsaken the Grand Council of America, and that Discord prevailed among our Commissioners to Foreign Courts, who were consulting their own Interests more than that of the States they represented. This being my Opinion, I could not believe that any Credit would have been paid to Mr.

Deane's Narration except by a few of the old Party. But have been astonished to find that many well meaning People have inadvertently been drawn in to side with him. Unfortunately the first Impressi=ons strike deep in the Minds of the Common People, and it requires many stubborn Truths to erase the Image of one well told Lie. This Deane knew, & therefore determined to be beforehand in blasting the Characters of those Men, whose testimony, he was sure, would bear hard upon him, & of those whose Virtue, he feared, would drag him forth to public Justice. How dreadful are the Effects of party-Rage? Men who engage therein spare no Pains to obtain their Ends; si nequeunt Superos, Acheronta movebunt.

Would it not be better, that our Friend, your Brother R.H.L. (to whom I would write if I was certain of his being with you) should continue in every Paper to vindicate his Character to the World, or even to demand a public Enquiry into his Conduct? For tho' he has many Friends who are convinced of his Innocence yet he has many Enemies who make use of Deane's Publications to ruin him.

If you can without much Trouble collect the several Peices upon this Subject, you will

greatly oblige me by sending them to me. A Key to the Signatures will be very acceptable, for I am at a Loss to guess what old Babler it is who has taken upon himself the Title of Senex. I have one more Favour to ask of you which is to put me down a Subscriber for Dunlaps Paper, & that you will pay for me whatever may be requisite, which Expence I will thankfully re-pay when I have the Pleasure of seeing you. Our affectionate Love to Mrs Lee. I am, my dear Sir, with unshaken Attachment

Your Friend & Brother
Mann Page Junr

Remember me to your Brother if he is with you

Mannsfield
Feby 8th 1779

Sir

A few days since, your honorable Colleagues were pleased to propose to me to go to England, in order to promote a release of the American Prisoners there, [illegible] approving of this proposal I accepted, with no other Motive than the pleasure of thereby serving my Country. I am since informed, that you have by Letter, made a direct and personal opposition, to my being employed in this Business: Whether I am to be so employed or not, is of very little importance to me, but it is of much importance that I should have an opportunity of vindicating my Character, & of ascertaining, whether your particular opposition to me, arises from a regard for the Public good, or from personal enmity; I must therefore desire that you will send me a Copy of such Parts of your Letter in question as relate to me.

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Humble Servant

Edwd Bancroft

Chaillot
9th Feb. 1779

Hon'ble Arthur Lee Esqr.

I William Lee Esquire Commissioner of Congress being at present in the city of Frankfort in Germany, and having just seen in the London news papers a long letter signed S. Dean, & said to be taken from Dunlap's Pennsylvania packet dated Decr. 5th wherein among other things equally devoid of truth, after speaking of me the writer proceeds thus "That I may not be un-"der the necessity of mentioning this gentleman again "I add here, that he hath since gone to Vienna, having "first appointed sunday commercial agents for you, "at the several ports, and in one instance removed "the person who had faithfully done your business "for two ℘ Cent in favor of another who is to receive "five ℘ Cent, of which as well as of the like com-"mission at other places, Mr. Lee receives a share, "for superintending at Vienna the business on your "account, a thousand miles off from his place of residence"

I think it incumbent on me to declare, and I do now declare on oath before God & the world, That after the death of the late Thomas Morris Esquire joint-commercial agent with me, of the Secret committee of Congress, when the Honorable Benjamin Franklin & Silas Deane Esquires declined joining with me in the nomination of commercial agents for the said

Secret Committee of Congress, (one of which agents proposed by me being Mr Jonathan Williams, who is mentioned in a note to the said letter of S. Deane Esqr. proof of which I have under the hands of the said Honorable B. Franklin & S. Deane Esquires) and as my duty to my country required my absence from France, I did appoint three different commercial agents, all of whom, in my conscience I then thought and still think worthy of the trust reposed in them by such appointment, and particularly as two of them Mr Limozin of Havre de Grace & Mr J. D. Schweighauser of Nantes, besides their unimpeachable characters as merchants, had been warmly recommended by the Sd Secret Committee to their commercial agents. And I further declare on my oath that on making such ~~appointment~~ as afsd I did not stipulate nor ever mention in any manner to such agents, that I was to receive any part or share of the commissions that such agents might charge or receive for doing the business of said Secret Committee, nor did I stipulate or agree with said agents, that they were to be allowed 5 pCent commission, always supposing that they would charge what was usual & customary

customary in similar cases; and I also declare & testify on oath that I never have to this moment received, nor do I expect to receive either directly or indirectly from any of the persons so appointed as afd commercial agents any gratuity, reward, benefit or commission whatsoever in consequence of such appointment. To the truth of the above I have made oath this 9th of February 1779 at Frankfort on the river Maine in Germany. W. Lee

I certify that, at Frankfort in Germany, I saw The Honble William Lee Esqr. make oath to a deposition exactly to the same purport & meaning, and nearly in the same words as the foregoing. Given under my hand this 26th day of February 1779 at Frankfort. Saml. W. Stockton

I Andrew Limozin merchant at Havre de Grace in France do hereby certify & make known to all whom it may concern that The Honourable William Lee Esquire never did either at the time or before or after his appointing me commercial agent for the Secret committee of Congress propose or demand to receive directly or indirectly any part for himself of the commissions that I should charge for doing the business of the said Secret committee, and I do farther certify that neither the said William Lee nor any person for him has received or is hereafter to receive from me any reward, gratuity or commission whatsoever on account or in consequence of the appointment aforesaid. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal at Havre de Grace in France the seventeenth day of february in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy nine. Witness my & seal. Andw. Limozin * (L.S.) *

I certify this to be a true copy. J. W. Stockton

We Clarkes writing on the office of Mr. Andw. Limozin merchant in Havre de Grace, declare & solemnly affirm on oath that by the correspondence we have seen betwixt the Honourable Wm. Lee Esquire & the aforesaid Andw. Limozin, it appears

timely

truly that the said Hon. William Lee has never required from the said Andw Limozin, the least reward directly or indirectly, either at the time or before or after his appointing the said Andw Limozin commercial agent for the Secret committee of Congress: in testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands & seals at Havre de Grace the seventeenth of february one thousand seven hundred & seventy nine.

Aubree. Ghequiere. Adriev. Olivier.

(L.S.) (L.S.) (L.S.) (L.S.)

I certify the above to be a true copy.
J.W. Stockton.

Paris 21. March 1778

Sir.

By the death of Mr. Thomas Morris, the commercial agency for the Secret committee of Congress has fallen on me alone; and I am happy, in conformity to their recommendation in appointing & authorising you as I do fully by this letter, to take up & dispose of such vessels & cargoes as may be lucky enough to arrive at your port, in which the said Secret committee may be interested, whether addressed to me solely or to Mr. Thomas Morris & myself as joint commercial agents. Always taking care

to advise the committee of your proceedings & giving the American Commissioners at Paris notice when any vessels arrive at your port in which the committee are interested. I sincerely wish that you may have frequent occasions of shewing your continued attachment to the interest of America in General & to that of the Secret committee in particular. I am &c (signed) W: Lee, commercial Agent for Secret Committee of Congress.

I certify the foregoing to a true copy } S W Stockton }

I Merchant in Havre de Grace in the Province of Normandy in the Kingdom of France certify & affirm the above written copy to be exactly true & conform to the original remaining in my hands. Witness my hand & usual seal. Havre de Grace the sixteenth day of February one thousand seven hundred & seventy nine. Andw Limozin × (L.S.) ×

I certify this to be a true copy. S W Stockton

We clarkes writing on the office of Mr. Andw. Limozin merchant in Havre de Grace declare & solemnly affirm on oath the above copy written in the other side of the Honourable Williams Lee's letter to the aforesaid Mr. Andw. Limozin to be true & exactly conform to the original word for word: In witness whereof we have delivered the present certificate in testimonium veritatis under our seal & hand. Havre de Grace the sixteenth day of february one thousand seven hundred & seventy nine.

Ghequiere (L.S.) Aedrea (L.S.) Olivier (L.S.) Aubrée (L.S.)

I certify this to be a true copy. S W Stockton

1 Wm. Lee's Deposition. Feb. 9th 1779

In answer to Simon Deane.

2. Andrew Limosin's Certificate

Feb. 17th

3. Certificate of his Clerks. Same day.

4. Wm. Lee to A. Limosin March 21st

5. Certificate of same Clerks —

Same day.

1778

Certificates from

Messrs. [illegible] & Afficdot

Messrs. Schweighauser

& Limosin &c. of

the falsehood of

S. Deane's libel

concerning Commission

taken by Wm. Lee Esq.

I William Lee Esquire Commissioner of Congress being at present in the city of Frankfort in Germany, and having just seen in the London news papers a long letter signed S. Dean & said to be taken from Dunlap's Pennsylvania packet dated Decr. 5th wherein among other things equally devoid of truth, after speaking of me the writer proceeds thus "That I may not be under "the necessity of mentioning this gentleman again, I add "here, that he hath since gone to Vienna, having first ap-"pointed sundry commercial agents for you, at the several "ports, and in one instance removed the person who had faith-"fully done your business for two ₱ Cent in favor of another "who is to receive five ₱ Cent., of which, as well as of the "like commission at other places Mr. Lee receives a share, "for superintending at Vienna the business on your account, "a thousand miles off from his place of residence". —

I think it incumbent on me to declare, and I do now declare on oath before God & the world, That after the death of the late Thomas Morris Esquire joint-commercial agent with me, of the Secret Committee of Congress, when the ~~the~~ Honorable Benjamin Franklin & Silas Deane Esquires declined joining with me in the no-mination of commercial agents for the said Secret Committee of Congress, (one of which agents proposed by me being Mr. Jonathan Williams, who is mentioned in a note

Wm. Lee's Address to the Citizens of U.S. Feb. 9th 1779. with Affidavit.

to the said letter of S. Deane Esqr., proof of which I have under the hands of the said Honorable B. Franklin & S. Deane Esquires) and as my duty to my country requir'd my absence from France, I did appoint <u>three</u> different commercial agents, all of whom, in my conscience I then thought & still think worthy of the trust reposed in them by such appointment, and particularly as two of them, Mr. Limozin of Havre de Grace & Mr. J. D. Schweighauser of Nantes, besides their unimpeachable characters as merchants, had been warmly recommended by the sd. Secret Committee to their commercial agents. And I farther declare on my oath that on making such appointment as afd. I did not stipulate nor ever mention in any manner to such agents that I was to receive any part or share of the commissions that such agents might charge or receive for doing the business of said Secret Committee, nor did I stipulate or agree with said agents that they were to be allowed 5 pr. Cent commission, always supposing that they would charge what was usual & customary in similar cases; and I also declare & testify on oath that I never have to this moment received, nor do I expect to receive either directly or indirectly from any of the persons so appointed as afd. Commercial Agents any gratuity, reward, benefit or commission whatsoever in consequence of such appointment. To the truth of the above I have made oath this 9th day of February 1779 at Frankfort on the ~~River~~ Maine in Germany. W. Lee

(Third Copy.)

I certify that, at Frankfort in Germany, I saw the Honble. William Lee Esqr. make oath to a Deposition exactly to the same purport & meaning & nearly in the same words as the foregoing. Given under my hand this 26th day of Feb: 1779. at Frankfort. Saml. W. Stockton

(28) Feby 9th 1779

To the free and independent citizens of America.

Friends & fellow-citizens.

Experience of the world teaches us not to be surprised, when men, ^complain who are disappointed in their ambitious or interested & lucrative views, complain: therefore knowing the man thoroughly, I was not in the least astonished at seeing republished in the English News-papers, a long letter signed S. Dean, and said to be taken from Dunlap's Pennsylvania packet of Decr. 5. in which, with professions of respect, he labors with all his powers, to estrange your minds from that confidence in & reverence for Congress, which it is absolutely necessary for you to feel as long as you think the blessing of liberty & independence worth preserving, which you have already spent so much blood & treasure, and suffered such incredible hardships to maintain, as the history of the world cannot furnish an example of. Great Britain has hitherto attempted in vain to subjugate by force your unconquerable spirit & love of liberty, her only resource & hopes now are in intrigue & sowing dissentions among you, particularly in endeavoring to lessen your confidence in the wisdom, firmness, & rectitude of conduct in Congress, which has hitherto conducted you successfully with honor & glory thro' the most alarming & perilous situations. Attend with caution I beseech you

you, my dear Countrymen, the givings out of those false prophets, who, if not actually in the secret pay of your devoted enemy the King of Great-Britain, are certainly in a most effectual manner working for him, and to destroy the liberties of America, when they attempt to breed dissentions among you, & to destroy all confidence in your government. I will only add one word more on public ground, which is, that until peace is firmly established and your independance as a nation is acknowleged by Great-Britain, he that endeavors in any manner to breed dissentions among you, and to break the firmness & union of your Councils, in which your great & invincible strength consists, is most certainly at heart your devoted enemy, let his professions be what they will.

This Gentleman in his curious letter above mentioned has honored me with his notice, & after a variety of misrepresentations & insinuations, such as that I am not so polished a gentleman as himself, on which subject I shall not waste my time in replying to him, that I am a partizan of Great Britain while he is a partizan of France &c, he concludes with only one specific charge of criminality against me, which is "That I had appointed commercial agents for you "at the several ports & in one instance removed the

person

person who had faithfully done your business for 2 pCent in favor of another, who is to receive 5 pCent, of which as well as of the like commission at other places, Mr. Lee receives a share, for superintending at Vienna, the business on your account a thousand miles off from his place of residence". To this charge of receiving a commission to your prejudice for services which I do not perform, I can only answer that it is both malicious & untrue, and I dare the accuser to bring forth to the public, his proofs in support of his charge. That he cannot produce any such proofs I am confident, because the fact which he asserts, does not exist; and altho' negatives are always difficult, sometimes impossible to be proved, yet in the present instance the fullest evidence of the untruth of this charge shall be transmitted by the first safe opportunity. From the hardiness then of this assertion of Silas Dean Esqr. you will judge, my Countrymen, what credit is due to the other assertions of this disappointed man. Mr. Williams, nephew to Dr. Franklin & partner with Mr. Dean in mercantile business, (also nephew to Mr. Williams now in London tho' formerly a King's officer in the customs in Boston which place he left about the same time with Govr. Hutchinson) who is mentioned in a note to Mr. Dean's letter & whom Mr. Dean says

says I displaced, was never that I know of your commercial agent. 'Tis true that he was appointed by Dr. Franklin & Mr. Dean, to disburse above a million of the public money in direct opposition & contradiction to the Secret Committee's appointment of Mr. Thomas Morris & myself as commercial agents: however making the sense of private resentment give way to my regard for the interests of my country, in order to put a stop to the distractions & mismanagement of your commercial concerns in France, which I found, & could not remedy because of the interference & opposition that I met with on every occasion from Dr. Franklin & Mr. Dean, I proposed to nominate their favorite Mr. Williams as one of the commercial agents, to which nomination Dr. Franklin dissented, and Mr. Dean refused to concur. Mr. Williams has since brought in his account to the American Commissioners at Paris in which he charges the public 2 p Cent Commission for himself, & p Cent Comn. for a Frenchman for doing the business for him, with a number of sundries and &c.a which makes the whole charge to the public above 5 p Cent. This will appear from these accounts; :o:

The doubtfulness of Mr. Dean's principles may stand in need of professions, but my uniform public

and

:o: And on some of the publick business he actually charged, & has received 5 p Ct. Commission; which by agreement between himself & Mr. Thomas Morris they were to share between them.

and decided conduct in favor of the rights & liberties of America ever since the commencement of her troubles in 1765 relative to the Stamp-act, render professions from me unnecessary: however I will beg leave to declare that I am neither a partizan for Great-Britain, nor for France, but a partizan for America: which I wish to see firmly established in liberty & independence, with as few, as possible, of such connections or engagements as may hereafter involve her in the disputes & wars that may arise in Europe. Universal liberty of commerce, solid peace & independance are the blessings I wish for America, & which I shall with all my faculties endeavor to procure for her; Success, it must be confessed, entirely depends on your exertions & unanimity. I am notwithstanding as much a partizan for France as any honorable & honest French-man can wish me to be. A sacred regard to treaties, I hope my Countrymen, you will ever maintain, for that Country & people must be abandoned indeed to Vice, who under any pretext can break those engagements which are the most solemn that human societies can enter into: I have no doubt therefore that the treaties already entered into between France & America, will be religiously observed on both sides in spite of all the machinations of your open enemies or disguised nominal friends: and I have such confidence in the honor & generosity of the King of France & his ministry as

Wm Lee Feb. 9th 1779.
His Affidavit & Address to Citizens of Am.

as to be assured that they will, on being applied to, readily alter any part of those treaties that may be found injurious or disagreeable to America.

The shortness of the time & the uncertainty of this conveyance prevents my replying so fully to Mr. Deane's letter at present as I certainly shall do by the first safe conveyance. I am with the most perfect esteem & respect, Gentlemen & fellow-citizens

Your most devoted
and obedient Servant.
W. Lee

Frankfort in Germany
Feby 9th 1779.

(Third Copy.)

William Lee esq. his
Affidavit & address —

1779

No. [illegible] 256

Mr Schweighauser   Passy Feb 10 1779

Sir   Copy

Capt. Jones has represented to Us, his desire and Intention of returning to the Countess of Selkirk, some plate which his people took from her House

We apprehend that Congress would not disapprove of this Measure, as far as, it should depend upon them, and we therefore consent on the part of the united States that this plate should be returned   this consent is to be understood to extend no farther than the Share to which the United States may be supposed to have a claim   the Claim of the Officers & Men, Capt Jones must be responsible to them for this plate in the whole is represented to be worth about 100 Guinees

We are Sir   your most obedient humble servt

Signed   B Franklin
Arthur Lee
John Adams

Dear Sir. ~~S. S. In~~ 1247

(No 279) Belleview 10 Feby. 1779

Some time in the summer or Fall last, the Commissy. General had orders from Congress to purchase in Virga. & Maryd. a considerable quantity of flour for the use of the French fleet, and it was directed to be stored in such safe and convenient ~~ones~~ places as that it might not be in danger of the enemy or obstructions from the ice when there was occasion to remove it. I have no manner of doubt, from the known ability and industry of Col. Wadsworth and yourself but that you have the requisite ~~flour~~ ready for the call of France — I yesterday evening received a letter from Monsr. Gerard the Minister of France at Philadelphia, informing me that this flour was much relied on, ~~and~~ that Vessels were now on their way to Chesapeake to receive it, and that Captain Veillon would be in Virginia in a few days to see the flour shipped. As it is of infinite ~~importance that~~ consequence our good and able friends and Ally should want nothing that is in our power to furnish, and as it is an object of great importance to the common cause I make no doubt but that you will exert all your powers to supply the flour wanted immediately. I think Col. Wadsworth told me that he had directed you should purchase all the flour you could in Virginia, as he did not imagine that all would be too much for the double use of France & our Army. I shall esteem it a particular

R.H. Lee to Wm. Aylett. Feb. 10th. 79.

favor if you will write me to Philadelphia by return of Post how you are provided with flour, what quantity you have for the French fleet, and where it is stored.

~~No 217.~~
(No 279)

I am, with much esteem and friendship, dear Sir your most affectionate and obedient Servant

Richard Henry Lee

No 217

To Commissary Aylett 10 Feb. 79

My Dear Brother

(No 378)

Frankfort on the Main in Germany
Feby 10. 1779

I wrote to you the 20th Decr ulto, which if it ever gets to hand, will go with this, but the uncertainty & risk, will prevent me from writing to Congress, or from saying so much to you as I shd otherwise do. however I can't refrain from informing you, (which information you may with confidence communicate to those it immediately concerns,) that in consequence of the engagements enterd into by me with the City of Amsterdam of which Congress has been repeatedly advised & the measures I have taken since, the States of Holland ~~at the~~ first, & afterwards the United States of the Netherlands, have come to a resolution, that if the English ships either visit, or interrupt their Merchant Ships in their Commerce that the United States of the Netherlands will look upon such visitation or interruption, as a declaration of War on the part of England. This declaration is decisive not only of the part that Holland will take with France but also with America. As to Germany there has been some time since much talk of Peace, but lately the rumor dies away, & in my opinion the chances are much in favor of War. I am still in continued correspondence with the Courts of Berlin & Vienna, & in my Judgement, if Peace takes place in Germany both those Courts will immediately acknowlege the Independence of Ama; if War continues Prussia, Russia & G. Britain may be leagued together, when France will join Austria & the latter enter into a Treaty with Ama — However I am happy to tell you that G. B. has been defeated in all her attempts for the last 12 Months to get fresh troops from Germany to prosecute the American War she cannot even get a sufficient number of recruits to compleat the German Corps now in Ama, all the recruits she can get will be a few hundreds — however I am told the B. Ministers mean to leave Ireland & even G. B. intirely defenceless, in order to send reinforcements sufficient to maintain the Posts of N. York & Rho: Island & if your defenceless Situation will admit, to ravage & plunder your Sea Coasts. You will therefore do well to be prepared in time.

The inclosed papers will speak for themselves, but as I am decidedly of opinion that the British Agents, the mortal Enemies of America, do not wish for any thing better at this moment, than appeals to the People at large against Congress, I wish you wd not only consult my particular friends but even Congress itself before you publish ~~any thing~~ either of the inclosed papers.

~~[illegible]~~ however I wish you to communicate them to Congress, & if it is tho't deem'd & proper that either of them shd. be publish'd, I shd. wish the address to the pub-lick to be publish'd first, & then if Mr. D. renews his assertion, publish the affidavit. A full state shall be transmitted very soon, but in the mean while let me intreat you as much as possible to prevent all Cabals or Parties from obstructing the necessary measures, for your Security & defence against the horrid machinations of the British Ministry & their Agents. As to myself, having never solicited any thing from Con-gress, & my present appointments being ~~not~~ at first not only highly disagreeable to myself, but I am sure contrary to the wishes of my real friends, yet being now engaged in the Political line, as long as I can be of Service ~~to~~ to my Country I shall have no objection to continuing in it, however if Congress shall have determin'd otherways, I shall submit without repining. It must I shd. think at first sight have struck every mind, that Mr. Dean exasperated at his disgrace in being recall'd, wish'd to have those he calls his Enemies put on the same footing, therefore he hazards the most audacious falsehoods to get my Br. & self recall'd to answer them, in which his chief point wd. be carried, & he himself when proved guilty of being a <u>false</u> accuser, cou'd not ~~not~~ be more infamous than he already is. ~~[illegible]~~ Remember I pray you not to let any of his accounts for the expenditure of Publick Money finally pass, with-out the most authentic vouchers; upon proper enquiry into this business I can boldly assert, that most infamous transactions will be brot to light. — From this apprehension arises Mr. Dean's & Dr. Franklin's mortal hatred to my Br. & myself.

Pray call upon the President Mr. Laurens, to inform Congress of wht. he has recd. relative to Mr. Dean from Mr. Lloyd his friend from the information of Mr. Carmichael & what Mr. Izard has wrote relative to Dr. Franklin. —— My family are tolerable in health & all of us send our best Love to you, yours & all other friends. My stay here will probably not be long, for as the future political system of Europe will be settled by the Spring, when that is fix'd I shall be call'd from hence to prosecute the Commands of Congress. I shall conclude therefore with assuring you of the constancy of my affection & Esteem for you.

I am my Dr. Br. affectionate W. Lee

Richard Henry Lee Esqr.

To
Richard Henry Lee Esquire
Member of Congress for the State
of Virginia at
Congress.

W. Lee 1779

Recd July 31st 1779
Via Boston
Wm Lee esq. to R. H. Lee
w. the deposition & address
concerning Deane's Libel

Wm Lee
Feb. 10th 1779

(No 278) copy entire

No 253

Passy Feb.y 11th 1779

Sir

As yr Excelly reads English perfectly well, my first Request is that you would do me the favour to read this without a Translation, after which I submit it to yr Excelly to make what use of it you shall think proper.

I have hitherto avoided, in my single Capacity, giving yr Excelly any Trouble, by Letter or Conversation; but the present Emergency demands that I should ask the favour to explain my Sentiments, either by Letter or in Person. If you will permit a personal Interview, I am persuaded, I can make myself understood. If you prefer a Correspondence, I will lay open my Heart in Writing before yr Excellency.

It is the Address to the People, in America, under the Name of Mr Silas Deane, that has occasioned this Boldness in me. It is to me the most unexpected and unforeseen Event that has happened. I hope yr Excelly will not conclude from thence, that I despair of the Commonwealth. Far otherwise. I know that the Body of the People, in the United States, stands immoveable against Great Britain: and I hope that this Address of Mr Deane, (altho' it will occasion much trouble to Individuals) will produce no final Detriment to the common Cause: But, on the contrary, that it will occasion so thorough an Investigation of several Things as will correct many Abuses.

It is my indispensible Duty upon this occasion to inform yr Excelly without consulting either of my Colleagues, that the honorable Arthur Lee was as long ago as 1770 appointed by the House of Representatives of the Massachusetts Bay, of which I had then the honour to be a member,

their Agent at the Court of London in case of the death or absence of Doctor Franklin. This honorable Testimony was given to Mr. Lee by an Assembly in which he had no natural Interest, on account of his inflexible attachment to the American Cause, and the Abilities of which he had given many Proofs in its Defence. From that ~~Period~~ Time to the year 1774 he held a constant Correspondence with several of those Gentlemen who stood foremost in the Massachusetts Bay against the Innovations & illegal Encroachments of Great Britain. This Correspondence I had an Opportunity of seeing; and I assure yr. Excellcy. from my own Knowledge that it breathed the most inflexible attachment & the most ardent Zeal in the Cause of his Country. From Sepr. 1774 to Novr. 1777 I had the honour to be in Congress and the opportunity to see his Letters, to Congress, to their Committees, and to several of their Individual members: ~~that~~ through the whole of both those Periods he communicated the most constant & certain Intelligence which was received from any Individual within my Knowledge. And since I have had the honour to be joined with him here, I have ever found in him the same Fidelity & Zeal; and I have not ~~the~~ a Glimmering of Suspicion that he ever maintained an improper Correspondence in England, or held any Conference or Negociation with any Body from thence, without communicating it to yr. Excellency or to his Colleagues. I am confident therefore, that every Insinuation & Suspicion against him of Infidelity to the United States or to their Engagements with his Majesty is false

and groundless, and that they will assuredly be proved to be so.

The two honorable Brothers of Mr. Lee, who are Members of Congress, I have long & intimately known, And of my own Knowledge I can say that no Men have discovered more Zeal in Support of the Sovereignty of the United States, and in promoting, from the Beginning, a Friendship & Alliance with France; and there is nothing of which I am more firmly persuaded than that every Insinuation that is thrown out to the Disadvantage of the two Mr. Lees, in Congress, is groundless.

It would be too tedious to enter at present into a more particular Consideration of that Address; I shall therefore conclude this Letter, already too long, by assuring yr. Excellency that I am with the most entire Consideration

Your most obedient and
most humble Servant
John Adams

His Excellcy
The Count de Vergennes.

My dear Brother

Freestone point Virginia Feby 11. 1779

As well as the shortness of my time will permit, I will give you the best detail in my power of things here since I wrote you fully by the Marquis Fayette of the state of our politics and parties. The wicked intrigues which you experienced from a certain set, and of which you have so often and justly complained, have been practised here to a still greater and more [illegible] mischievous length. The Tories avail themselves of it, and they are to a Man on Deanes side, hoping thereby to injure and deprive us of influence whose determined will and capacity to injure their cause they well know and fear. Deanes party in short rests on triple ground. The first and most considerable is Tory, the second and next most considerable is Commercial plunder, the third is Ambition. These last are few in number, but artful, intriguing, and want now, when our affairs look well, to come into yours & our B. Williams places, which they would not have dared even to have accepted before the late happy change of our affairs by the Alliance with France. Soon after I wrote by Marquis Fayette I left Philadelphia the 3d. of Novr. having been between 6 and 7 months from my family and quite worn down with constant attention to public business. As I came away [illegible] up to Congress where he has been ever since. After I came away a month, Deane published his Libel of Decr. 5 as you see in one of the papers now sent. The bold and impudent assertions, the dark innuendos, and the art with which the whole is wrought up, had it seems such an effect in Phila. as to excite Tumults there in his favor. And to the Southward here, it had very ill, tho not such violent effects because there are fewer Tories here to aid its operation. In the enemies quarters the City of N. York it created the most extravagant joy and underwent republication. These Intriguers who are wickedly working their own private benefit, do infinitely more injury to the common cause than all the power of our enemies can effect. Before they came in business was going on with unanimity and with wisdom, since [illegible] and faction have reared their baneful heads to the unimaginable injury of [illegible]. The affair of Berkenhout, on which this Libeller has insinuated evil against me is the most trifling of all things. The man was a perfect Stranger to me, and came to [illegible] on the ground of a former acquaintance with my brother. I received him civilly, and he told me he came to seek a settlement for his family, and asked my advice where he shd. fix. I gave him the best advice I could. He appeared to me most strongly attached to the independence of America, and I did and do believe him to have been honest [illegible] so. I dont think we changed above an hundred words together, for I was too much engaged in public business. He was arrested on no other ground than a paragraph in an English Newspaper. After this I never saw him. Having detained him in prison a few days they discharged and sent him back to N. York having no evidence to prove anything against him. This is the whole of that affair. The wicked fallacies against you and our B. Wm. you both know. The greater part I know to be abominably false. Deane has since given in a written narrative to Congress in which I am informed his only charges against you are that you are jealous, suspicious, offensive to all who come near you, that you hate the french, and show it in all your conduct and conversation. Mr. Wm. Lee is mean he says and goes shares with the Agents he has appointed. This latter charge I presume Mr. Lee can, and I hope he will furnish to Congress the most ample disproof of. The charges against you in his Narrative to Congress are absolute jargon. [illegible] of them. His printed libel against you, it may be highly proper to attend to in every part and get the clearest proofs of falsehood where the nature of the thing admits. For in many cases, he deals so in innuendos, that [illegible] it [illegible] impossible to be produced can alone refute him. For too many people are inconsiderate enough not to demand proof of him for such charges before they credit them. He & his party are now working

1778. Doit Compte des Etats Unis par Messieurs

Novemb. 12.	acceptation de M. B. Franklin à une traite de J. Philips du 28. Septemb. à usto . .	L. 1200..
17.	payé à Mr. Arthur Lée sur reçu . . .	4800.
18.	acceptation de Mr. B. Franklin à traite de Ph: Hancock de Bruxelles du 2. 7bre. à vue	124. 5. 9.
29:	acceptation de M. B. Francklin à traite de Darcy & Moylan du 17. 9bre. à vue	246. 15.
28.	Mandat de Mrs. Lée & adams à John Brown .	480.
28.	acceptation de Mr. B. Franklin à traite de R. Niles de Bordeaux du 9. 9bre. à vue . .	240.
30.	Mandat de Mrs. Franklin, Lee & Adams à J. adams.	240.
30.	Mandat de M. John Adams à son ordre .	285.
Decembre 1.	Mandat de Mrs. franklin, Lée & adams à Laplaine .	840.
2.	Mandat de M. J. Adams payé à Hardy . . .	265. 10.
4.	autre de Mrs. franklin, Lée & adams à Luther Farmer	240.
7.	acceptation de Mr. B. franklin, traite de J. D. Schweighausen de Nantes du 17. 9bre. à 8 j. de date.	9954. 18.
14.	Mandats de Mrs. Franklin Lée & adams à L. Brook 288. à R. Brook 288. à A. Blée Coggeshall E. Bates. G. Sugar 192. chaque	1344.
14.	acceptation de B. Franklin, à traite de Horneca fizeaux & C. d'amst. du 12. 9bre. à vue .	114. 11.
16.	payé à Mr. J. Adams sur son reçu . . .	2400.
16.	payé à Mrs. Franklin & adams sur reçu .	5000.
* 19.	acceptation de M. Arthur Lée a traite de Th. Diggs de Bristol, du 5. Xbre. à un jour de vue, sur A. Johnston	803. 13. 3
	transporté ci contre .	L. 28578. 13.

* For money sent on the public Account to Captn. Alexandr. Dick a prisoner, & for which he sent his Receit at Passy. A Lee.

Franklin, Lee & Adams chez Fs. Grand Avoir

1778 Novemb.	12.	Pour Solde du précédent Compte	L. 439728. 15. 7
		Pour une traite de Mr. H.y Laurens Président, du 7. 9bre 1777, à 30. jours de vue, dont ces Mrs. ont été debités deux fois au lieu d'une . . . . . "	900 —
			L. 440628. 15. 7.

1778.	Transport d'autre part	£. 28578 . 13.
Decembre 28.	acceptation de Mr. B. franklin à traite de Greenleaf de Rotterdam du 11. Xbre. à vue.	159. .
28.	mandat de Mrs. Franklin, Lée & adams du 24 C.t	480. .
29.	dit - de Mrs. franklin & adams à young.	240.
30.	acceptation de Mr. B. Franklin, à traites de W. Bingham de la mart.que du 16. Juillet à 3 mois de vue	600. .
31.	mandat de Mr. B. Franklin . . .	2400. .
31.	acceptations de Mr. B. Franklin du 19. Xbre. à deux traites du Loan office, du 31. 8bre. de 1500.# & du 9. 9bre. de 600.#	2100. .
1779 Janvier 2.	mandats de Mrs. Franklin Lée & adams à R. Moor 360.# à Hyfield & J. M. Carthy 192.# chaque R. Robinson Shoemaker. J. Cobb. J. Williamson 240. chaque. Wm. Deliver 144.#	1848. .
2.	acceptation de Mr. B. Franklin du 1.er Janv.r à traite du Loan office du 20. 8bre. ord. N. Gilman	120. .
4.	mandat de Mr. B. Franklin du 29. Xbre. à 1/3.	131. . 10.
5.	acceptation de Mr. B. Franklin à traite de Wm. Bingham du 26. Juillet à 3 m.s vue .	6600. .
7.	mandats de Mrs. Franklin Lée & adams du 6. Ct. à Rt. Niles 288.# Meredith 192.# J. Brehon J. Verbert 240.# chaque	960. .
8.	mandat de Mrs. franklin & Adams à Rt. Niles .	192. .
-	acceptation de Mrs. Lée & Adams, à traite de Wm. Lée de francfort du 1. Xbre. à un mois de date.	24000. .
9.	acceptat.n de Mr. B. franklin du 30. 7bre. à traite de Wm. Bingham de la M.que du 15. Juillet à 3 m. vue	4400. .

Transporté ci contre £. 72809. 3.

Transport d'autrepart . . . . £ 110628.15.7.

£ 110628.15.7.

1779.	Transport d'autrepart	£. 72809. 3.
Janv. 9.	accep.on de M. B. franklin du 31. 8.bre à la traite de W.m Bingham du 11. Aout à 2 mois de vue	4111. 18.
. 12.	accep.on de M.rs Lée & adams au mandat de R. Izard à vue	12000. .
. 12.	payé à M. Arthur Lée sur reçu	1800. .
. 12.	payé à M.rs franklin & adams sur reçu .	1800.
. 19.	Mandat de M.rs franklin Lée & adams, à offin.	240. .
. 19.	Pour une remise de J. Williams dont ce Compte a été crédité mal à propos	2400. .
. 22.	Mandats de M.rs Lée & adams à J. Merchant à J. Arnold 240. chaque	480. .
. 26.	acceptation de M. Franklin à traite de W.m Bingham du 10. aout à 2 ½m. de vue .	15000. .
. 26.	acceptations de M. B. Franklin à 74. traites du Loan office, 4 de ces traites sont acceptez du 24. X.bre 14 du 16 dit, 18 du 22 dit, & 38 du 19 dit .	34950.
28.	Mandat de M.rs franklin & adams à Roy 240. W. Davis 240.	480.
fevrier 6.	accept.on du D.r Franklin du 26. X.bre à 14. traits du Loan office & du 27. X.bre à 31. autres aussi du Loan office	13260.
. 6.	accept.on du Doct.r franklin à une traite de Schweighauser de Nantes du 16. Janv.r à 10 j.rs de date .	10550.
. 8.	ditto	19450.
. 11.	payé à M.r Arthur Lée sur reçu . . .	12000.
. 11.	ports de Lettres, Paquets, Commissions &c . .	318. 9.
. 11.	p.r Solde il revient à ces Messieurs . .	202946. 5. 7.
	ainsi arêté quadruple	£. 440628. 15. 7.

Transport d'autrepart . . . £. 440628.15.7

£. 440628 . 15 . 7.

Sauf Erreur ou Omission
Paris le 11. Fevrier 1779.

Grand

Chaillot 13th Feby. 1779

Sir

(The information which produced my Letter to you, was given to me, by your honorable Colleagues, and first by Mr. Adams.)

I give you this Explanation, without being able to perceive the propriety of your having asked it, unless it were, for a purpose, not avowed in your Letter. You are at Liberty however, to use it, in any manner you please.

I have the Honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
Edwd. Bancroft

Hon'ble Arthur Lee.

Chalut

Bordeaux 16 feb 1779

The Hon.ble Arthur Lee Esq

Sir

By Letters last post from Paris I was informed of your being unwell but that you were recovering. I hope your health will be quickly restored.

I have Letters from Mr Morris as also from his House Mr Saml Ingles & Co settled at Philadelphia, of the 17 & 18 December brought by a Pilot Boat arrived at Nantes to Mr Ross. I suppose not receiving by her other Letters that it is a private Equipt of the House and their concerns and possibly have no publick dispatches on board. he acknowledges the receipt of my Letters up to the 20 Augt. of course supposed those thro' my channel sent by the same conveyance not having yet to hand any since.

Mr Morris is no longer of Congress he writes me is entirely discharged from all publick Concerns the affairs of the State of Pensylvania Excepted. from this advices the States are disappointed in not receiving more Vessels on Private Account as they were flattered the Open espousal

espousal of this Court would have smoothed the path and given protection to Ships bound thither

Exchange was at 750 ₽ Cent at Philadelphia dry Goods from 2000 to 2200 from whence may be surmised there real situation as to necessaries. I find Congress have drawn on you for Interest, I flatter myself Mr. J. As apprehensions of being unprovided with Funds to answer, are removed. pray for what intent are the Capital Sums drawn by Mr Holker & Co in Virginia on certain houses in France. I apprehend they being fully instructed of the security of the Bills that would be drawn on France by Congress have Speculated by drawing at the present high Exchange by which they get five Capitals for One their money they lend to the States and [illegible] on the said five Capitals raised from One [illegible] by [illegible] draft they get from the Loan office 30 ₽ Cent. that while you are setting every engine to work to save one or two ₽ Cent in the money you take up the Junto by this plan drain every spring into their own Channel and without being eased by the assistance given you the very

lenders receive from you for the Interest on the Capital
you are supposed to borrow of 7 8 or 10 pCent and Interest
increased
on the Capitals in America and I doubt not when you
come to scrutiny the Bills you will find 4/5th in
favor of the Combination depend upon it a House in
France is playing a most Curious Game and that by
the great Confidence given but to which situated as
you are you cannot avoid being exposed wishing

I see Mr S.t D. has not spared you or
your B. in his appeal to the Publick it appears he
is not well within doors that he is obliged to have
recourse without,

Our Commercial Correspondents appear perswaded
Spain & Holland will enter in dance notwithstanding
that [illegible] lyed. that now finding the only opportunity
[illegible] happen of reducing Great Britain to an
equal State with the other Maratime Powers so to lev
her as by treaties to be confined to the extent of the Power
she may be permitted to assume. We have rumors of
Cte. D'Estaing but no authentick Intelligence, pray where is
your B. yet at F.? my respects to Mr Izard I am

D S Your very Hble Servt

John Bondfield

16 Feb 78?

79

Mr De Sarsfield a besoin de lire la
deffense de common sense lorsquil a
receu le billet de mr. Lee. Il va
demander a mr. Izard la permission
de preter cette reponse a mr De la
Rochefoucault. Il seroit fort a desirer
qu'elle parut en francois

Mr Lee auroit fait plaisir a M.
de Sarsfield de lui mander comment
il se porte aujourd'huy

Mardi 16 fr.

17 Feb '78 [illegible]

Jay lhonneur de vous renvoyer, Monsieur Lecrit que vous avez bien voulu me confier. Il est certainement tres bon mais lavis de celui qui pense quil ne faut pas le faire paroitre est tellement decisif qu'apres y avoir bien pensé, Je trouve quil n'y a rien de mieux a faire que de s'y rendre. Il n'en est pas de meme de la reponse de Common Sense. c'est une chose donnée deja au public et dont Il est par consequent en possession. Je vous demande la liberté

de la garder encore un ou deux Jours.
Je vous prie de dire au Mr Lee que Mr
De la Rochefoucault la verra surement
demain. Je vous prie aussi de lui
faire mes excuses de ce que Je n'ai eu
pas l'honneur de lui faire reponse
hier. Son billet m'arriva au moment
ou J'etois obligé de sortir
recevez Je vous prie, Monsieur l'assurance
de tous mes sentimens

17 Fevrier

A Versailles le 16 fevr. 1779

J'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer Monsieur copie d'une lettre de M. le Pce de Montbarey ainsi que de la note dont elle etoit accompagnée, vous y verrez que l'Etat de Verginie est redevable à la Caisse d'Artillerie d'une somme de 256,633.# 7s. 10d pour le prix des effets qui lui ont été cedés. Je ne doute pas que vous ne preniez promptement les mesures nécéssaires pour effectuer le remboursement de cette somme.

J'ai l'honneur d'être très parfaitement

Monsieur, votre tres Hble & tres Obeisst Serviteur

true Copy Compaird

A. Gillon

(Signé) De Vergennes

M. Arthur Lee

See the translation overleaf

Translation of M. de Vergennes's Letter to Mr. Lee

Versailles 16th Feb. 1779

I have the honor of transmitting to you, Sir, a copy of Prince Montbarey's Letter, and the note that accompanyd it. You will there see that the State of Virginia owes to the Artillery Chest 256,633.lt 7s. 10d. for the payment of the effects furnished. I doubt not that you will take the speediest measures for the immediate payment of this Sum.

I have the honor &c

signed De Vergennes.

Copie de la Lettre de M. Le Pce de Montbarey à M. Le Cte de Vergennes

a Versailles le 10 fevr. 1779

Je joins ici Monsieur, un état montant à la somme de 256,633.# 7.s 10 que l'état de Virginie doit à la Caisse d'Artillerie pour le prix des effets qui lui ont été cédés. Je vous serai obligé de vouloir bien concerter avec Mrs les Députés des Etats unies de l'Amerique les mesures necessaires pour que cette somme soit remise entre les mains de M. de Chastel cy-devant tresorier générale de l'artillerie et du genie à l'effet de servir au payement des depenses de l'année dernière

J'ai l'honneur d'être &c

True Copy Compared
A. Gillon

Translated over leaf

I annex an account of the sum of 256,635[lt]
7[s] 10[d] which the State of Virginia owes to the Artillery Chest, for the supplies furnished them. I shall be obliged to you to concert with the Deputies of the United States for the payment of that sum into the hands of M. Chastel formerly treasurer general of the Artillery &c, to discharge the accounts of last year

I have the honor &c

Passy, Feb. 18. 1779.

Sir,

I beg you will be pleased to send me by the Bearer, all the public Papers in your hands, belonging to this Department.

I have the honor to be with great Respect

Sir

Your most obedient humble servant.

B Franklin

Honble. A. Lee Esq
Chaillot.

Deliverd to me by
Mr W. T. Franklin at
my house, between
12 & 1 O C. on friday the
19th of Feby 1779, in
the presence of The
Honble J. Adams

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY MICROFILM / PUBLICATIONS

There is no frame number 0744.

Passy, Feb. 18. 1779.

Sir,

I have the honor to communicate to you herewith Copies of Resolutions of Congress, of Sept. 11. Sept. 14. & Oct. 22. I shall endeavour strictly to comply on my Part with the Commands of Congress contained in the latter; which are at the same time perfectly agreable to my Inclinations.

I have the honor to be with great Respect

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant.

B Franklin

Hon.ble A. Lee Esq.
Chaillot.

Arthur Lee Esqr. Bilbao the 20th Febry 1779

Honoured Sir

We had the pleasure of salutting you last on the 30th ~~ult~~o wherewith handed you Invoice of 50 Balles Blanketts shipt on the Schooner New Bury port Capt. John allen for the Ammount whereof if right after due Examina=tion requested your placing to our Creditt reales 39300 & 30 mrs Vellon all which again confirme: & as continue since without any of your Esteemd favours the present will also serve to Transmmitt you on the other side Two Invoices Vizt one for 130 Balles contaning 3380 fine large Blanketts shipt on the Brigg Phenix Capt James Babson & the other for 80 Balles with 2080 Blanketts of the same Kind shipt on the Schooner Success Capt. Philipe Trash, as such must again beg the favour of your ordering them to be Examined & if right ~~after due Examination~~ place to our Creditt the ammount of the former Rs. reales 102182 & 14 mrs Vn & that of the latter Rs. reales 62881 & 17 mrs of Vellon boath which sums are duelly debitted you for a Governo.

One half of the freight & primage of the 130 Balles of Babson payable in Europe ammounts to £5282.15. Tournois & that of Capt. Trash for the 80 Balles to £3250.10..d.t so that & the next post we shall be obliged to draw on Mr Le Grand those Two Sums as well as the £4021. adviced you in our former: We hope soon to hear from your good self if the repport Spread here that Jamaica has had the lott of falling in the Count D'Estain's hands proves True & Sinserely Salutting you remmain

Honoured Sir
Your mt. affte obt hble Servts.
Joseph Gardoqui & sons

Babson & Trash are ready to Sail; Capt allen departted the 4th

20 Feb 79?

Segretario de Estado ministre des aff Etrangere

El conde de Florida Blanca.

Segretario del despacho universal de la Guerra
ministre de la Guerre

El conde de Riclo

Gobernador del consejo de Hacienda. ministre
des finances.

Don Miguel de Muzquiz.

Segretario del despacho universal de Marina

don Castejon

Segretario del despacho de indios

Don Joseph Galvez

Segretario del despacho de Gracia y Justicia

Don Manuel de Roda y Arrieta

A Monsieur

Monsieur Arthur Lee

Chez M Izard

A l'hotel de Toulouse

Rue du Jardinet

Spanish Ministry

memor: March 2: paid André's Bill & Wages

Gave Antoine 5 Louisd'r on his Account.

Given Antoine on the road

1st day — Louisdors	1	
2d day	1	
3 [illegible]	2,12	
3	2,	
1st night 6.10:		
2 — 6.7		
3 night 9	1	
6	3	
at Nantes 38 ll		
1st day	1	
1st night 7 ll 12	1	12
2d day	1	
2d night 6 12	1	
3 day	1	
	2	
4 day 8 ll	1	
	2	
		18
46 posts at 5 ll 15 per post	21,	18

20 Feb. 79

Vous etes prié Monsieur a diner pour Lundi chez Mad.e la duchesse d'Enville. Si votre Santé ne vous permet pas d'y aller, vous aurez la Bonté de le lui mander.

Je chericherai l'occasion ou plutot le moment d'avoir l'honneur de vous voir aussitot qu'il me Sera possible. Vous connoissez les sentimens avec lesquels J'ay l'honneur d'etre Monsieur Votre tres humble et tres obeiss.t Serviteur Sarsfield

Samedi 20 f.er 1779

Duplicate.

on the Other Side, is a true copy of a certificate I gave Mr. Arthur Lee & Mr Ralph Izard in paris last april

Nantes 20 Feb. 1779

M Livingston

I gave the said certificate in consequence of having been informed, in paris that Mess Lee & Izard had been attacked (and as I conceived unjustly) on the Subject of Stock Jobbing in England, & that in order to facilitate that Scheeme, that they had disclos'd the Secrets of the cabinet Respect=ing, american affairs; I therefore thought it My duty to declare, what I know'd on that Subject, as it tended to Relieve those Gentlemen from such an imputation

Dated Nantes 20 Feb. 1779

M Livingston

Paris 11th April 1778

I do certify that I was Shewn a letter in London dated
27 January last which I was told was written by Doctr Bancroft
to Mr Wharton informing him that he might depend upon it
he had it from the very best authority, that the Treaty with
the Court of France was to be Signed the 5th or 6th of
February and desiring him to make his Speculations according
in the above words or words to that effect. I do also certify
that I have seen Dr Bancroft hand writting on other —
Occassion & that I beleive the above mentioned letter to have
been wrotten by him -

M. Livingston

Paris 11th. April 1778

I do certify that I was shewn a Letter in London dated 2 January last which I was told was written by Doctr. Bancroft to Mr. Wharton informing him that he might depend uppon it, he had it from the best authority that the Treaty with the Court of France was to be signed the 5th. or 6th. of February and desiring him to make his Speculation accordingly in the above words, or words to that effect. I do also certify that I have seen Doctr. Bancroft hand writting on other ocassions & that I Beleive the above mentioned letter to have been wrotten by him

Matt^w Ridley

20 Feb. 79

on the Other Side is a true copy of a certificat I gave Mr. Arthur Lee, & Mr. Ralph Izard in paris last april,

Nantes 20 Febr. 1779

J. Williams

I gave the said certificate, in consequence of having been informed in paris, that Mess. Lee & Izard had been attacked (& as I conceived unjustly) on the subject of Stock Jobing in England, & that in order to facilitate that Scheeme, that they had disclosed the secrets of the cabinet Respecting american affairs; I therefore thought it my duty to declare What I knowed on that subject, as it tended to Relieve those Gentlemen, from such an imput-ation.

Dated Nantes 20 Febr. 1779

J. Williams

Nantes Feb.y 23.d 1779

Dear Sir

Your note of the 18th to Mr Blake, and myself, had been opened, and sealed again — The frigate is not yet arrived to conduct us from hence to Isle d'aix, but we are assured, she may be expected every day, consequently our stay here is very uncertain, and we are prepared for an immediate departure — It is impossible for me to tell you where we may be found ten days hence — We do not intend to leave this place till we are acquainted, that our protector is actually in the River — It is probable we may be detained sometime at Paim-beuf and Isle d'aix, but that you must be sensible cannot be depended upon — If you have any Dispatches or Letters that you are desirous of trusting to either of us — it will be best for you to transmit them under cover to Mr Schweighauser who, will know where to find us previous to our sailing.

I can with confidence say, our best services are at your command and that I am very respectfully Dear Sir

Your most Obed Serv J. Lloyd

Arthur Lee Esqr. — Bilbao the 24th Febry 1779.

Honoured Sir

On the 20th Instant datte of our last salutes to your goodself, we handed you Two Invoices one for 130 Balles Blanketts shipt on Board the Phenix Capt Babson & the other for 80 Balles ꝑ the Schooner Success. Capt Trash with a request of your placing their respective ammounts to our Creditt which hope you have been pleased to comply with; & as still continue deprived of your much Esteemed favours, the present agreable to what hinted you in our last will only serve to informe you our haveing this day taken the freedome to value on your Banker Mr LeGrand a bill for £12554. 5. Tournois at 75 days datte in favour of our freind Mr John Emery which being the exact value of the half freights & primages due in Europe to the Vessells on whome the Blanketts have been shipt as ꝑ memorandu at footh beg your giving proper directions to said Mr LeGrand to discharge the same which will very much oblige —

Honoured Sir

Your most affte obt hble Servts —

Joseph Gardoqui & sons

Babson & Trash Sailed yesterday. God send them safe —

please Turn over

Memorandum of 1/2 freights & Primages due in Europe

Primage of the Freight ⅌ Fawson 10 ⅌ Ct.	£ 1990 . .
1/2 Freight & primage ⅌ Allen	2031 . .
1/2 d° . . . d° . . . ⅌ Babson	5282 . 15 . .
1/2 d° . . . d° . . . ⅌ Trask	3250 . 10 .
	£ 12554 . 5 .

24 Feb. 9 ?

M. de Carsfielo prie Monsieur Lee de vouloir bien lui faire dire de ses nouvelles. Il est tres faché de ne pouvoir pas aller s'en informer luy meme mais cela lui est impossible ce matin.

Le Jeudi 24 fe.

(1)

To the Honble R. H. Lee Esqr

My Dear Brother / Francfort on the Mayn in Germany Feby 25th 1779 —

I have not heard from you nor of you but in the English papers, since May last. I have wrote to you repeatedly within that time, some of wch letters I hope will reach you, particularly one of the 10th instant via Holland to Boston enclosed to Samuel Adams Esqr a copy of wch was sent to Paris to be forwarded from thence. Both these covered my affidavit in reply to Mr Deane's charge against me in his letter published Decr 5th in Dunlap's paper, of receiving a share of the Com:missions charged by the Commercial agents in France & a short address to the public, one or both or neither you will publish as Congress shall judge adviseable, for in so critical a time for our Country, I would avoid all public contestation as far as it can possibly be done with propriety & a due attention to ones character, for unless that is clear, half a man's powers to serve

serve his country are taken away. You have now with this a copy of the affidavit confirmed by certificates from one of the Commercial Agents & his Clerks. I have drawn up a full state of all my proceedings in the public service from the time I first rec^d notice of my being appointed one of the Commercial Agents, until I left Paris in March last to come to Germany. This state shall be sent by the first safe conveyance that is likely to be quick, in wh. Mr Deane will be proved to have acted a most reprehensible part & his insinuations to my prejudice will appear as wicked & unjust, as his only positive charge against me will be proved untrue.

I hear by private report that the plot contrived in Aug^st or Sepr last by the remnant of the old Junto in Paris & Nantes to injure the reputation of Mr Schweighauser & his Son in Law Mr Dobree has been transfered to the Agents of the Junto in America where of course the principal censure has been thrown on me & has been industriously propogated from Philadelphia to Maryland & Virginia because Mr S. was appointed

one

one of the Commercial Agents by me. I am surprised that so barefaced an attempt to injure me was not immediately quashed, as it coud have been done so easily by letting it be known that I have had nothing to do with that department for many months past, as the Secret or Commercial Committee early in the last year appointed the American Com=missioners at Paris, superintending agents of their Commercial affairs. From the experience I have had of the wickedness of our enemies who I know will not stick at any falsehood or villainy to accomplish their vile purposes, I think it pru=dent to enclose you a copy of the Baron de Breteuil's letter to me approving of my conduct at Vienna & also copies of recommendatory letters of Mr. Stockton who has been with me as Secretary, wch you will keep & make known if you find occasion: for tis not impossible that some forg'd aspersions may be circulated against my proceedings in Germany, especially as the negotiation I have had with the city of Amsterdam has given mortal offence to a <u>certain person</u> who wishes to be esteemed not only the sole legislator for all America, but also the sole & absolute director of all her proceedings.

However

However I pride myself on that measure & the good effects are visible in the steady & firm opposition of Amsterdam to the designs & intrigues of G. Britain. Congress will certainly pursue that negotiation & leave nothing untried to gain the whole republic of the 7 Provinces, decidedly & openly in our favor. Congress will judge who is the properest person to be employed in that business. It would be at this moment of great advantage to America if she had some active & well informed agent (tho not in a public character) at the Courts of Petersburg, Copenhagen, & Stockholm — This agent should be a Gentleman & by his appointment enabled to keep the better sort of company. If he had any address, he might pave the way for those powers acknowledging our Independency, at least he might prevent G. B—n from getting any assistance or countenance in prosecuting the war against us & France.

It will be somewhat unlucky for

America

America if Congress shou'd pay so much attention to the calumny of Mr Deane as to leave this department vacant at this critical moment, for now hostilities have ceased between the Emperor & the king of Prussia & peace is certainly settled, there will be work enough for an American deputy in Germany & it may happen with a good deal of management, that the king of Prussia may do more than any other power in negotiating a peace between us & G. Britain. I shall write again on this subject if I find my plans are likely to take place wch at present wear a favorable appearance.

I have long since commenced some negotiatns with Denmark, from whence before long we may expect some favorable issue, at present things are not so decided as to permit me to speak with certainty, tho the prospect in general looks so well, that I think it more than probable that our Independance will in a few months be acknowledged by several of the powers in

Europe

Europe. My family is not very well in health however we send our best love.

(Copy) W. Lee

P. S. I do not mention any thing to Congress about Mr Deane as it appears to me that it would be irregular, as I only have heard of his proceedings thro the medium of the public papers.

My Dear Br

Paris March 25th. 1779.—

The Original of my last letter by Mr. Stockton, which is copied on the other side may not perhaps reach you so soon as this. Mr. Adams had left this place to go to Nantes to be ready to take his passage in the Alliance for America, before I got here, in which I was unlucky as I much wish'd to have had some conversation with him before his departure. With this goes a full vindication of myself against the aspersions of Mr. Silas Deane, under cover to his Excellency President Jay, to be layd before Congress. I do not make any address to the Public, because as far as I am acquainted with the actual situation of things in America such a step would be highly improper, as tending to draw the attention of the people from that reverence & respect for Congress, which is the grand basis of the Security of America, & which our Enemies have ever been & are still trying, by Bribery & every insidious art, to bring about; & because I fear that if the attention of the People is taken off, from exerting every effort in providing for their security against our inveterate Enemies, they may be taken unawares & suffer irreparable Injuries. If you however

however being on the Spot judge it proper that any public reply on my part should be made, twill, I suppose, be amply sufficient ~~sufficient~~, to select some of the striking facts, out of what is sent to Congress & publish them. Such as, that Mr. Williams actually agreed to do the public business for Mr. Morris & divide the 5 pr Ct between them (I have Mr. Deanes Letter on this engagement which he approved of) & that Mr. W. has actually charged & recd. this 5 pr Ct. — The Certificates of the Agents appointed by me viz Mess. Limozin, Schweighauser & Bondfield whose certificate has been already sent to Congress —

That Congress in Feby 1778 put the Commercial Agency under the direction of the American Commissioners at the Court of France, which authority Doctr. Franklin as Minister here is now exercising alone; & such other facts as you may think prudent & proper to publish.

From my own letters to you as well as my Brs to you & Mr S. Adams, you can show that so far from my desiring to keep the Coml. Agency in my hands while I was actg as a Comr — as Mr Deane & his partizans insinuate, We both recommended Mr L Loyd to the Coml. Agency. And as they charge us with an ingrossing disposition, will they show what part of profit any of the Family has or ever had. Mr Deanes Fortune when he came over here, must be well known in America — Every body knows he has now much money. The Critical situation of Mr R. Morris at the begining of the American War, was not only generally known in London & Holland but in other places, what is it now — What has Mr Carter Braxton, Mr Williams, Mr John Ross & a multitude of other dependants of Mr Deane & Mr Morris made? Have they made these immense profits, with their own, or the Public Funds? As to

To the Hon.ble R. H Lee Esq.r (No 280) 1

My dear Brother/

Francfort on the Maine in
Germany Feb.y 25th (1779)

I have not heard from you nor of you but in the English papers, since May last. I have wrote to you repeatedly within that time, some of wch letters I hope will reach you, particularly one of the 10th inst. via Holland to Boston enclosed to Samuel Adams Esq.r a copy of wch was sent to Paris to be forwarded from thence. Both these cover'd my affidavit in reply to Mr Deane's charge against me in his letter published Dec.r 5th in Dunlap's paper, of receiving a share of the Commissions charged by the Commercial Agents in France & a short address to the public, one or both or neither you will publish as Congress shall judge adviseable, for in so critical a time for our Country I would avoid all public contestation as far as it can possibly be done with propriety & a due attention to ones character, for unless that is clear, half a man's powers to serve his Country are taken away. You have now with this a copy of the affidavit confirmed by certificates

Nor

certificates from one of the Commercial Agents & his Clerks. I have drawn up a full state of all my proceed-ings in the public service from the time I first rec^d. notice of my being appointed one of the Commercial Agents, until I left Paris in March last to come to Germany— This state shall be sent by the first safe conveyance that is likely to be quick, in wch. M^r. Deane will be proved to have acted a most reprehensible part & his insinuations to my prejudice will appear as wicked & unjust, as they his only positive charge against me will be proved untrue.

I hear by private report that the plot con-trived in Aug^st or Sepr. last by the remnant of the old junto in Paris & Nantes to injure the reputa-tion of M^r. Schweighauser & his Son in law M^r. Dobree has been transferd to the Agents of the Junto in Ame-rica where of course the principal censure has been thrown on me & has been industriously pro-pogated from Philadelphia to Maryland & Virginia because M^r. S—r was appointed one of the Commercial Agents by me. I am surprised that so barefaced an at-tempt to injure me was not immediately quashed

as

it could have been done so easily by letting it be known that I have had nothing to do with that department for many months past, as the Secret or Commercial Committee early in the last year appointed the American Commissioners at Paris, superintending agents of their Commercial affairs. From the experience I have had of the wickedness of our enemies who I know will not stick at any falsehood or villainy to accomplish their vile purposes, I think it prudent to enclose you a copy of the Baron de Breteuil's letter to me approving of my conduct at Vienna & also copies of recommendatory letters of Mr. Stockton who has been with me as Secretary, wch you will keep & make known as you find occasion, for 'tis not impossible that some forged aspersions may be circulated agst my proceedings in Germany; especially as the negotiation I have had with the city of Amsterdam has given mortal offence to a <u>certain person</u> who wishes to be esteemd not only the sole legislator for all America, but also the sole & absolute director of all her proceedings. However I pride myself

on

on that measure & the good effects are visible in the steady & firm opposition of Amsterdam to the designs & intrigues of G. Britain. Congress will certainly pursue that negotiation & leave nothing untried to gain the whole republic of the 7 Provinces, decidedly & openly in our favor. Congress will judge who is the properest person to be employed in that business. It woud be at this moment of great advantage to America if she had some active & well informed agent (tho' not in a public character) at the Courts of Petersburg, Copenhagen, & Stockholm — This agent shoud be a Gentleman & by his appointment enabled to keep the better sort of company. If he had any address he might pave the way for those powers acknowledging our Independency, at least he might prevent G. B–n from getting any assistance or countenance in prosecuting the war against us & France

It will be somewhat unlucky for America if Congress shoud pay so much attention to the calumny of Mr. Deane as to leave this department vacant at this critical moment, for now hostilities

have

have ceased between the Emperor & the King of Prussia & peace is certainly settled, there will be work enough for an American deputy in Germany & it may happen with a good deal of management, that the King of Prussia may do more than any other power in negotiating a peace between us & G. Br-n. I shall write again on this subject if I find my plans are likely to take place wch at present wear a favorable appearance.

I have long since commenced some negotiations with Denmark, from whence before long we may expect some favorable issue, at present things are not so decided as to permit me to speak with certainty, tho' the prospect in general looks so well, that I think it more than probable that our Independence will in a few months be acknowledged by several of the powers in Europe. My family is not well in health however we send our best love

P. S. I do not mention any thing to Congress abt. Mr. Deane as it appears to me that it wd. be irregular, as I only have heard of his proceedings thro' the medium of the public papers - -

hands while I was acting as a Commr. as Mr. Deane & his partizans insinuate, we both recommended Mr. Lloyd to the Commerl. Agency. And as they charge us with an engrossing disposition, will they show what post of profit any of the family has or ever had. Mr. Deane's fortune when he came over here, must be well known in America — Every body knows he has now much money — The critical situation of Mr. R. Morris at the begining of the American War was not only generally known in London & Holland but in other places — what is it now — What has Mr. Carter Braxton, Mr. Williams, Mr. John Ross & a multitude of other dependants of Mr. Deane & Mr. Morris? Have they made these immense profits, with their own, or the public funds? As to myself I shall be perfectly easy if Congress in the arrangement of their European affairs, should leave me out entirely. I never did ask for, nor ever wished for my present appointment, however I trust there will be justice enough to reimburse me what I have lost, by coming from England to enter on the public service, that my family may not starve while it is impossible to get any supplies from America

for

for I know not any part of Europe where we coud get 50 Guineas to keep us from a Jail. I can by a fair account prove that I lost by coming from England above £6500 Sterl.g all money out of my pocket. If on the contrary I sh.d be continued a Minister 'twill be as necessary for Congress to fix some more deci:sive mode of supplying the expences of the Comm.n than the resolution of last year, that the Comm.rs at the other Courts should draw on those at Paris for their expences, for in consequence thereof I drew last Sep.r on the Com.rs here for 1000 Louis d'ors w.h D.r Franklin refused to accept; he also re:fused to accept M.r Iz—ds draft for 500 Louis d'ors, however the other two Com.rs accepted both our dfts. Now D.r Franklin is sole Minister & sole Commerc.l director, he told me the other day that he w.d not pay any of my dfts for my expences; thus does he pre:sume to contravene the appointments & orders of Congress & he had even the assurance when I mention'd to him the resolution ab.t Unanimity & Cordiallity here, to reply, that Congress sh.d set us the example by their own conduct.

For

For my own part I cannot any longer submit to the insolence & tricks of this old creature, who is perpetually surrounded by persons to whom his papers are exposed, that he has been again & again cautiond about & whom every body but himself take to be spies for our Enemies. But they flatter his Vanity & tell him he is absolute lord of America. This is with him, a most decisive proof of their merit & Integrity. I do not know that it has been yet explicitly & in the regular form settled between the K. of France & the United States that the guarantee on both sides mentiond in the treaty of alliance has now actually taken place. This is a point of so much importance that it cant be too soon, or too explicitly settled. If this guarantee has actually taken place, surely Congress did not consider that peace must be actually made here, when they determind to leave all their political & Mercantile Interests in this Country in one & the same hand. I know that what is agreed here must be ratified by Congress to be binding, but I know as well how difficult it will be to resist even a very bad arrangement

arrangement of the pacification that is agreed to here, therefore too much care cannot be taken to prevent such an evil. It seems to me that immediate instructions & very explicit should be sent to the Minister here not to consent or even undertake to recommend to Congress any plan of pacification without the consent & approbation of all the deputies that Congress may have in Europe, who can be easily assembled here on such an important occasion. Communicate this idea to the Aristides of America S. A. with my very best respects, & to such others as you know love their Country & Liberty better, or at least as well as them selves — I have not followed the example of Mr. Iz—d & my Brother in requesting to requesting to resign, because I do not approve what they have done, for the greater the danger the more I am firm & at this moment the danger to our Country seems to me more tremendous than ever, from the inveteracy of our enemies, the abandon'd profligacy of those who having plunderd millions

of the

of the public money wish to realize what they have hold of, by a secret convention with our enemies to be secured, if by private machinations they can bring about a subjugation or pacification on dependant principles. I did not believe Govr. Johnston when he boasted to the British Cabinet & his confidential friends, of what great things would arise from the effects of his private operations in Amr. But some late proceedings particularly the not censuring S. D. for his daring publication, has a bad appearance, however I am determind to stick the closer to the operations of the secret & underhand operations of the enemies of our Country. I am assured that what a certain great Man, as he is calld, has done for S. D. & his junto, is not entirely approved of at V—lles & he is consequently coming away— This to yourself— I have surely great reason to be offended at giving up all T. Morris's papers, after what had passed here, (wch was not very wise for there is great reason to believe they containd something highly important for Congress to have known, from the Letters of Mr. Jn. Ross, who was a good deal in the

secrets

Secrets of S. D. & R. M. with you.) I am inclind to think the former Chairman conceald my Letters & Documents sent with them, from the Secret Committee, or Congress, until he obtaind the Resolve for the papers to be deliverd up to his order. Pray tell me how this business was really managed with you — I burn to write my mind truely to Mr. R. M. on the subject, but I wish not to be hasty, because my conjecture may be ill founded. Will not Mr. Deanes publication show to Congress the necessity of adopting the mode practised by every power in Europe of administring an oath of Secrecy to all their public Ministers or Commissioners. — Those with you may do it before they come away & those in Europe on having the form sent them should be obliged to take the oath before a proper officer in the Country where they are, & to return at least 3 Certificates to Congress of his having taken this oath. The receipt of the following letters written by me & delivered here to Mr. Simeon Deane in Feby 1778 has never been acknowledged, vizt. to yourself

Dated

121
1Δ)

dated 28th feby 1778 covering copies of mine to you on the 13 & 15th of feby 78. from Nantes, & copies of some of Mr Ross's letters relative to Mr T. Morris's papers — To R. Morris Esqr 28th feby 1778 — F. L. Lee Esqr same date — Secret Committee of same date, President of Congress same date vizt 28 feby 1778 — all these were put up in one packet & directed to the president of Congress — Also a Letter to Genl Arnold with an engraving — the history of the revolution in Switzerland. Pray enquire & let me know if all or any of these letters have been recd for I never supposed it was for much good that Mr Silas Deane went from hence with his Br Simeon after he had these Dispatches as far as Versailles where they stayd together all night & from whence Silas brot an impertinent letter from his Br Simeon to our Br A. L. for demanding a recet from his Br Simeon for these letters. It seems that no interest is to be paid in France for any money put into the Continental loan office after March 1778 — I dont see therefore what benefit will arise to me from

from puting any of the ann.l produce of my estate into the Office & for what has been put there I wish you to send me the Bills here at least for the amt. of the interest. I have already written I fear too much & yet have a great deal more to say— Our best love & wishes attend you & yours & I remain most sincerely Yrs W. Lee

(1st. Copy)

P. S. Your Sons are well & I suppose write to you frequently— The linnen you desired is sent in the Gov.r Livingston Capt. Gale for Virginia to the care of my Steward Mr. Ellis

copy on the
(No 280)

Wm Lee
to
R H Lee
Feb 25 &
March 25th 1779

R.H.L.
(Copy)

1779
rec: Oct 11

Moillet,

Bordeaux 26 feb 1779

The Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

Sir

The 19th Inst I had the Honor to pay my respects to you inclosing a Packet for your Brother

By Last Post we have various reports of Loss's sustaind by France in the attack of St Lucia of which we expect by to Days Post further particulars The Ship I advised you arrived at Rochelle proves private property belonging to the House of Purveyance & Co at Baltimore addrest to M Delap I do not find any letters for you or the publick came by her them received are of the 2 January The Merchants at this and the other Ports of France are againe alarmed by advises receiv^d of the Cape that the Fleet of Merchant Ships ~~left~~ Saild the 11th of January for Europe unescorted should they fall into the hands of English Privateers the success's would give so great a Spirit to them enterprizes that all private communication with America will be cut off, we are

almost

almost wore down by want of Returns and the difficulties we meet with in the recovery of Loss's from the Underwriters many of whom are obliged to Stop payment —

I drew on you the 25th Instant at 10 days favor of Messrs Testard & Guechet for £1193.10.3 to which you will please to give due honor and place the same to the debit of my Accounts with you — I hope you are recoverd from your late sickness which I shall rejoice to hear & am with due respect

Sir

Your very hhb Servant

John Bondfield

The Jesuite who wrote Montcalm's Letters is dissatisfied with his pension. He came from Canada hither both as an agent for his frater-nity and for General Murray, who gave him a pension for life payable out of the Canadian revenue; of £200. This our ministry have with-held. The Jesuite threatens to prosecute the crown, and wants Horn to conduct the business. He swears if they do not fulfil their engagement he will disclose the whole affair. He will tell the world that he was hired to forge these Letters of Montcalm in order to make the nation believe that the rebels are now act-ing in prosecution of a long premeditated design to throw off the yoke. He will tell the world that he carried the MS. to the K. who kept it some time, and returned it with several alterations. Whether the knavery of the contrivance or the folly in not silencing this poor devil, be most wonderful is not easily determined. I do not write this as

matter of report: I have better authority. This Jesuit was Montcalm's secretary.

Our system is not more evidently stamped with ignorance and folly than with irresolution. We sincerely wish to set our foot on the neck of Rebellion; but we are terribly fearful lest she should rise and throw us on our back. Under this apprehension we seem inclined to shake hands with her: we half-resolve to do it; when some wretch, who gains or hopes to gain by the conflict, claps us on the back, spits in our mouth, and bids us die like a cock. We then begin to look big, feel bold, negociate with Germans, and put more ships in commission. The next revolving sun beholds us again desponding; we talk again of peace; but we know not whom to trust, nor what to propose. But our greatest misfortune is that we are not perfectly clear who has the power. We have no pilot vested with absolute ~~power~~ authority. Every man on the quarter deck puts his hand to the helm: some put it a weather,

others pull it hard a lee, in consequence of which it now stands a mid ships. Some-times the Captain swears he will steer the vessel himself; but, conscious of his ignorance of navigation, his fears soon make him re-sign the wheel, and while his Lieutenants and petty officers, are disputing who shall take it, the ship drives, depending upon pro-vidence for her deliverance. What the last scene of distress may produce, I know not. A second Lieutenant is not without hopes that something may yet be done. I shall see him soon, and then you shall know more. In a few days I shall be honoured with a conversation behind the scenes: I expect nothing from it. When I do not write you may be sure I have nothing to say. I shall answer Z as soon as any thing arrives from Ame-rica. Wilson's Knobs are likely to prove mere bubbles. I have reason to suspect a good deal of trick in his experiments. I believe we shall overset him without much difficulty. Your question concerning cash and paper I cannot yet answer. I beg to be respectfully and cordially remembered. We here are all in statu quo.

A Monsieur

Mons.r Lotson

chez Mons.r Holville

Tailleur, a coté du Caffé

de Parnasse, vis a vis les Sama-

-ratins, Pont-neuf à

Paris

Berkenhout

13. ober

28 Feb 79

I this moment read in the St. James's Chron. the following paragraph— "Dr. Franklin is appointed by Congress, sole Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of France from the United States of America". —— Are these things true? The ways of Heaven are dark and intricate.

I never had reason to doubt your sincerity, and I must necessarily suppose that you have the best information from America; but as I have been later in that country than yourself, you may rationally believe that I am not uninformed.

You and I, my good friend, have been so long and so intimately acquainted, that I flatter myself you are convinced, I would not on any consideration plead what I conceived to be an unjust cause. There is certainly no sufficient exculpation for the

breach of national faith, except treachery or palpable delinquency in the other party. But with regard to this battle royal, I am firm in the opinion that a triumvirate of honest men, of more natural sagacity than political refinement, would end this mighty contest with very little trouble. This triumvirate should be formed of a native of each nation, they should meet in the dominions of a neutral state and they should have no other power than that of treating and transmitting the result of their deliberations to their respective potentates.

They write from Paris, that if Dr. Berkenhout's dream were realized, something might be done towards accomodation — What did this imply? Have you seen the Morning Post of the 3.d and 5.th of this month? If not, I will send you extracts from each.

Direct for me as before. Adieu. Compliments from the Ladies

Answer Chaillot Feb.y 28th 1779

The Chronicle is right.+ your plan in my private judgment is not a bad one. I beg you will let me know, who wrote from Paris that "if Dr. Berkenhouts dream were realized, some thing might be done towards accommodation"; & I shall be obliged to you for the Extracts from the Morning Post which I have not seen.

My respects to the ladies

Farewell.

+ Alters to – The judgment of an Individual upon your plan is immaterial. It must be deci ded by the contending Powers.

Memd. Mr. Edmund Jenings, upon my shewing him this Letter, informd me, that soon after I had shewn him Dr. Berkenhouts former Letter in wch. he makes his proposals in the form of a dream, he saw Dr. Bancroft at Mr. S. Petrie's a suspected Spy stationd here from England, when he heard Dr. Bancroft say there had been propositions receivd here in the form of a Dream. The Letter I sent to Dr. Franklin

A. Lee Feb.y 29th 1779

N 19

Received and read in my presence the 28 Feby 1779
Paris [illegible]
[illegible] George [illegible]

A Monsieur
Mons.r Johnstone Garçon
Tadeur, chez Mons. Holville
vis a vis les Samaritaine
Pont-neuf
Paris

Dr. Berkenhout

Casalce 28 feᵈ 79

Monsieur C'est a mon grand regret que je ne reponds qu'au dernier de feᵈ a votre lettre du 21, de Xbre je ne fais que de la recevoir ayant ecrit pour cela a Paris sur savis que la porte me fit avoir qu'il y avoit une lettre arrêtée a mon adresse qui ne partoit pas faute d'afranchir. Comme par votre lettre il me paroit qu'il s'en doit etre egaré une des miennes j'ecris celle ci a double j'e l'adresse a votre ambassad et j'en mets la copie tout simplement a la porte Vous m'obligerés de m'aprendre la quelle des deux vous seras parvenue avant Je vous serois fort obligé de me donner quelques nouvelles (bien entendu de celles qui se donnent) de vos affaires Celles qui nous viennent sont souvent si absurdes que on ne scauroit y compter et je suis si convaincu de votre bonne foi et philosophie que je suis persuadé que l'esprit de parti ne scauroit influer sur ce que vous m'en direz. Ma santé se retablit

Autrement j'ai ete hipothequé tout Choses dont
La saison est et la plus belle sans que j'aie pu
en proffitter mes affaires domestiques
m'occuperont encor pour quelque [illegible] J'ai
L'honr d'etre Monsr avec le plus sincere attachemt

Monsieur Le M de Gosignan

Casal ce 28 fevr 79

Monsieur Cest a mon grand regret
que je ne reponds qu au dern de fevr a
votre Lettre du 24 Xbre je ne fais
que de la recevoir ayant ecrit pour cela
a Paris sur Lavis que la poste me fit
avoir quil y avoit une lettre au bureau
a mon adresse qui ne partoit pas faute
de franchir Comme par votre
Lettre il me paroit quil sen doit etre
Egaré unne des miennes jecris celleci
a double je Ladresse a notre Ambassadeur
et jen mets La copie tout simplement
a la poste Vous mobligeres de
maprendre La quelle des deux vous sera

parvenue avant   Je vous serois
fort obligé de me donner quelques
nouvelles (bien entendu de celles qui se
donnent ~~[illegible]~~) de vos affaires
celles qui nous parviennent sont souvent
si absurdes quon ne scauroit ; compter
et je suis si convaincu de votre bonne
foi et philosophie que je suis persuadé
que Lesprit de parti ne scauroit influer
sur ce que vous men dires   Ma
santé se retablit lentement jai
eté hipothèque tout Lhiver dont la
saison a eté la plus belle sans que
jaie pu en proffitter   me affaires
domestiques noccuperont encor pour quelques

mois j'ai l'honneur d'etre Mons.r avec
Le plus sincere attachement

etc.

Le M.is de Joffreau

Grand
~~[illegible]~~ P.D

Monsieur

26

Monsieur Arthur
Lée hotel d'Espagne
a Paris
Rue Guenegaud ..
~~[illegible]~~

No 4

Duplicate of No 3.

[illegible]

Sir, Philadelphia March 3d 1779

Your letter to the Delegates of the 29th of Feb. has been laid before the Marine committee in consequence of the business of retaliation ~~for~~ on Marine prisoners having been referred by Congress to that Committee as you will see by the resolve of July 27th last, which is inclosed. The Committee make a distinction between such prisoners as ~~are~~ properly belong to a particular State, and such as are Continental being made so by the arms of the U. S. The ~~Latter~~ former, each State will avail itself of for the benefit of of their own people in the power of the enemy, as a Cartel can be agreed on with the enemy by such State, as hath been frequently done by the Eastern States. Or such prisoners may, at the pleasure of the State to whom they belong, be delivered to the Continental Commissary for common benefit. At present no Cartel has ever been, or could be settled with the enemy for American prisoners in G. B. They being unwilling there to recognize us in such a light as Cartel would place us, and therefore these exchanges have been confined to prisoners in America only. We have however some reason to expect that the exchange may shortly ~~be~~ extend to Great Britain. In the mean time, ~~[illegible]~~ the State of Virginia will ~~[illegible]~~ see by the resolve of Congress inclosed what are the sentiments of this ~~Congress~~ Body on the subject of retaliation, and will adopt ~~[illegible]~~ their mode ~~[illegible]~~ if it shall be thought proper, with such prisoners ~~are~~ as belong immediately to the State of Virginia — I have the honor to be with sentiments of esteem and regard Sir your most obedient and very humble servant

Richard Henry Lee Chm. M. Comm.

March 3, 1779

Letter to Gov.r Henry
bout Marine prisoners made
by State of Virginia

Bordeaux 6 March 1779

Arthur Lee Esq

Sir

I have before me your favor of the 25 ulto. I am sensible the Stab given by Mr Deanes will require some attention but no great skil to heal it is necessary sometimes to receive an alarm it creates Vigilence and exposes the dangers that attend too secure confidence in consientious probity

I need not tender I apprehend you are so far prejudiced in my favor as not to doubt that if I can be of any Service of my steddy attatchment. I heard of the Doctors appointment but not coming officially I continued my Correspondence as usual to the Commissioners by last Post I received letters from him in his Own Name. You know how I am situated with regard to the Agentcy your Brothers appointment has always stood firm what changes is on the Carpet I know not the Doctor makes no mention of any. I suspect some instructions will be

given

given from Congress respecting the Sea ports either appointing Consulships or private Agents — do you remain in Europe so far as propriety admits permit me to ask a sketch of the present establishment in Europe in Virtue of the last resolves

I am respectfully

Sir

Your very hble Servant

John Bondfield

Please to enquire of the Marquis de Lafayette if he has with him at Paris the picture of General Washington delivered to his care by Mr Vernon president of the Navy Board at Boston for his Son who is with me under my care or if he left it at Brest to whom to enquire to receive it from

Il n'est point venu de lettre aujourd'hui pour Monsieur Lée. mais M. Grand a l'honneur de lui Coter les fonds d'angleterre & ceux d'Hollande, en même temps de la Nouvelle qu'il a reçu de ce dernier endroit.

Extrait d'une lettre de St. Eustache en datte du 6 Mars 1779.

Il arriva la semaine derniere 14 batiments de la Martinique. escortés par une fregatte françoise, qui repartit le même jour avec 8, qui se trouvat icy chargés pour la Guadeloupe, & Martinique. lundy il nous arriva de nouveau 3 frégattes françoises, qui venoient de réprendre sur les Anglois l'Isle de St. Bartholomé. à la partie françoise de St. Martin. & qui repartirent Jeudy matin avec 22 batim. françois & Hollandois déstinés pour la Guadeloupe, Martinique, & St. Domingue. La chose sur prenante. est que ces Convois, vont & viennent pendant que l'am. Byron est mouillé a St. Lucie avec 23 Vaux. de guere. Mr. Le C. d'Estaing de son coté est au fort Royal avec 16. Mr. le C. de Grasse y étant arrivé le 20 passé avec 4, on y attend dit on d'autres, avec Convoy annoncé

de france, & qui n'etoit pas arrivé le 3 de ce mois
par contre il y etoit arrivé la semaine derniere Sept
Provinciaux (...)

	Londres		Amsterdam
p. mai Indes	156	[illegible]	152. p. aout
Banque	119		115
3 p%	64 5/8		62 1/2

(Dear Brethren. (No 281) Nantes March 8th 1779.

I enclose you an answer to Mr Deane's address, of which I send you a duplicate & triplicate. It is accompanied with authenticated Vouchers for every material fact I advance. I leave it entirely to your Judgment, in which you will, if you please, consult our Brother Louden, & Mr Samuel Adams to withhold, or present it to Congress. In the Vouchers there are names & secrets, which I think ought not to be trusted to more than a secret Committee. I am hardly at this moment, recoverd from a long & dangerous illness, which together with the variety of matter, which was necessary to consider, may account for the Imperfections of my answer. But I trust it will be sufficient to prove incontrovertedly the baseness, falshood, & wickedness of the accusations. I wrote you some time ago that those men were the most wicked of all human beings, & you find their conduct has fully justifyd that Character.

The other letter to Congress desiring my dismission, I also leave to your Judgment and that of my friend, whether you will present it or not. If they shoud not have censurd the Accuser, I cannot with any propriety continue in their Service. Mr Deane's letter has

done more mischief to the U. States & to me, than you cou'd imagine from so false & foolish a performance. But there are thousands who cannot believe that any man, who has been in his situation, wou'd advance falshoods, which wou'd disgrace the lowest & basest Clerk in office. They therefore not only believe what he advances to be true; but they conceive that he has yet deeper dis-coveries to make. Such is human Nature.

The Minister reprobates his Conduct; and I think most certainly that if any satisfactory proof cou'd be obtain'd of either Mr. Gerard, or Mr. Holker's coun-tenancing his performance; it wou'd immediately effect their recal.

The powers of attorney which I send for prosecuting Mr. Deane at common law for a false & scandalous libel, you will have the goodness to have carried into Execu-tion immediately, if you see no impropriety. Mr. Ingersol's engaging on my side o' the question, will depend much upon Mr. President Reed's advice. I shou'd imagine such a Connection subsists between Mrs. Shippen & Mr. Reed as wou'd prevent him, if so

inclined, from giving any countenance to men so bas[e]
as Mr Deane & his party.

Such parts of the letter, & vouchers as you think will undeceive the public, & may with propriety be made known, you will publish, if you think proper.

It is my opinion that the proper way to silence these men is to face them in the most open & direct manner; & for that purpose I shall come over myself, if Congress have not done me Justice, & the public are deluded by such a wretch.

You will see by our Brother William's letter that he is in good spirits. Your sons are both well, & Tom will, I suppose, write you by this opportunity.

I think the safest way of directing to me will be under cover à Monsieur Monsieur de Chalut, farmier general, place Vendome. Paris.

The enclosed Extracts from Mr. Digges's Letter is a farther proof of the transactions of the Junto.

Adieu

March 8 1779

A

[~~No 147~~]

(No 281)

8 March 1779

Hon. A. Lee to
R. H. Lee about
Deane's Libel &
his vindication

No 147

~~No 57~~

Acco.t of Military & Ordnance Stores, …
Langdon on Acco.t of the United States of America …

The different Vessels Imported in	When Rec.d	Bls of Powder	Chests of Arms	Brass Cannon & their Appar.s	Casks & Bxs Flints	Bales of Tents	Bxs Grape Shott	Cannon Shott	Bxs Musq.t Balls	Grenadoes	Casks of Tin	Bxs of Tin	Match St…	B…
Ship Mercury	1777 March	1000	364		8									
Ship Amphitrite	April	129	219	52	23	37	14	20390	237	8877	30	11	10	
Sch.r Mere Bobie	July													
Ship Flamand	Decem.r	160	126	48				1963					4	13
Ship Dutchess of Gram.t	1778 June		101	2	32									
		1289	810	102	63	37	14	22353	237	8877	30	11	14	13

The above Stores &c were Dispos…

Delivery	Bls of Powder	Chests of Arms	Brass Cannon & their Appar.s	Casks & Bxs Flints	Bales of Tents	Bxs Grape Shott	Cannon Shott	Bxs Musq.t Balls	Grenadoes	Casks of Tin	Bxs of Tin	Match S…	B…
State of New Hampshire	10	65		2				20					
State of Mass.ts Bay		121											
State of Connecticutt		91											
Ships Hancock & Boston	200												
Ship Raleigh	42					6		2	100		2		
Ship Ranger	62	2									2		
To the order of Gen.l Heath	975	531	100	61	37	8	22353	215	8777	30	7	14	13
To the ord.r of the Cloth.r General													
To the ord.r of the Board of War													
Sold for Acco.t of the Continent													
On Hand			2										
	1289	810	102	63	37	14	22353	237	8877	30	11	14	13

Portsmouth March 8th 1779

...together with all the Cloathing that have been Received by John

Bbls Sulphur	Tierc. Sulphur	Chests Sulphur	Spades & Shovels	Pick Axes	Narrow Axes	Tierce Knives	Brass Mortars & Beds	Bomb Shells	Cases Prim'g Wires &c	Casks of Copper	Hhds of Copper	Cases of Holsters	Casks of Shot	Cases of Cartouch Boxes	Cases of Saddles	Bales of Blankets	Hhds of Sold's Cloathing	Casks of Sold's Cloathing	Bales of Sold's Cloathing	Bundles of Sold's Cloathing	Bales of Cloths Trim'gs Hose &c	Cases of Cloths Trim'gs Hose &c	Hhds Salt
						1										8					49	6	
			3388	4954	282	1448			1												31	1	
																					20		
3	40	13	770	396	134	186	19	2474															
										60	20			2	8		51	123	151	143			80
3	40	13	4158	5350	416	1634	19	2474	1	60	20	23	1	2	8	8	51	123	151	143	100	7	80.

...s'd of in the Following manner Viz.t

Bbls Sulphur	Tierc. Sulphur	Chests Sulphur	Spades & Shovels	Pick Axes	Narrow Axes	Tierce Knives	Brass Mortars & Beds	Bomb Shells	Cases Prim'g Wires &c	Casks of Copper	Hhds of Copper	Cases of Holsters	Casks of Shot	Cases of Cartouch Boxes	Cases of Saddles	Bales of Blankets	Hhds of Sold's Cloathing	Casks of Sold's Cloathing	Bales of Sold's Cloathing	Bundles of Sold's Cloathing	Bales of Cloths Trim'gs Hose &c	Cases of Cloths Trim'gs Hose &c	Hhds Salt
																} 8							
			6		4																		
			8																				
13.	40.	13	4144	5350	412	1634	19	2474	1		20												
																					100	7	
																	51	123	151	143			
																							80
										60		23	1	2	8								
13	40	13	4158	5350	416	1634	19	2474	1	60	20	23	1	2	8	8	51	123	151	143	100	7	80

Errors Excepted — John Langdon Agent for the States

Return of Military & Ordnance Stores, Cloathing &c. received and delivered by John Langdon Esquire — Portsmouth 8th March 1779

I have just received your Letter of the 25th and have no more time, it being Mail Day, and I far from Town, than to say that the next Mail, I will do what you desire, as you may be perfectly satisfyed and easy, in that Point. — Further than common News which, the Papers told I have not had it in my Power to say from you, and that I have not made a secret, because it would be rediculous to do so. — That the World may have surmised further, I cannot pretend to say, knowing our Connexion, but that the Person you mentioned should have the the assurance to say what you tell me, is as aston=nishing to me, as it is void of truth, because he knows the contrary, and if it were just to follow so infamous an Example, he also knows how easy it would be to prove that knowledge of his — but I would willingly avoid doing wrong, altho' I was even (as I have been here) traduced by it and my name unjustly, and without truth made use of. —

More I cannot say but that I am, most truly and sincerely Yours &c

10 March 1779.

True Copy from the original

S. Smith

(No 282) March 10th 1779

Thoughts hinted for Consideration of the Gentlemen Committee on Representation of Gov. Trumbull respecting the Accounts & Concerns of his Son Coll. Jos: Trumbull late Comissy Genl.

The Comissy Genl. Mr Trumbull came into Office at a Time when no System was organized — the Business of a Comy Genl was then unpractised & almost unknown to Americans — with great Labor, Industry & Attention he instituted a Plan by which the Army, during his Continuance, was fully & amply supplied & the Business of the Department conducted with a good Degree of Accuracy & with great Economy, to the universal Satisfaction of all Ranks of Men in the Army from Genl Washington down to the common Soldier —

He acted not only as a Purchasing Comy (a great Proportion of the Money expended being actually laid out by himself) — but directed also all the Issues of Provisions — for good Part of the Time, particularly the two first Campaigns, he was in great Measure Purveyor for the Hospitals — & in many & various Instances acted the Part of QMGenl — # # (the three latter Branches greatly augmenting his trouble — but not so much his Expenditures) with this Variety & Extension of Business, his Duty must have been arduous — with what Fidelity & Integrity he executed these several Trusts, his Cash Accounts & the Voice of Numbers can testify —

He made Imense Savings to the Public by large & seasonable Purchases & Contracts — outrunning & even anticipating in many Instances the Orders of Congress — thereby keeping up large Supplies — moderating the Demands of the Seller — intercepting Monopolies & keeping down Prices, which, after his Resignation, & imediately upon the Magazines which he had accumulated being exhausted, were augmented & increased to a great Degree — A Comparison of the Amount of his Expenditures during more than two Years he was in Office, being made with any subsequent Sums issued in the same Department, will evince the Economy

Economy of his Plans & Practice. —— (No 282)

An Estimation of a Sum for Allowances to be made the Comm^y Genl for his Services — in Addition to the foregoing Considerations — the Value of the Currency at the present Time will come into View. It appearing from his Acc^ts of Cash received & Issued — that little or no Public Monies have gone to his own private Use. ※ —— If a Commission should be the Rule of fixing the Compensation for Services Done — It cannot be a Question — whether, so far as the Monies have been actually laid out in Purchases by him, he should not be entituled to the Commission of a Purchaser, over & above the Commission arising on the Gross Sum of Monies received by him, — Add to this a Consideration for his Issuing, Surveying &c^a &c^a &c^a ——

1779

The Administrator on the Estate of the Deceased begs leave to propose, that he be directed to settle the late Com^y Genl Cash Acc^ts for Receipts & Issues of Monies — & thereupon be exonerated from further Brothers[?] —— Mr Hoskins to be appointed to settle Accounts with the several Purchasers & bring them to a close — being authorized to receive & pay Ballances as they are Due & to Acc^t —

Considerable Sums, as I am informed, are still due from the Public, to sundry Persons employed by the late Comm^y G^l who have advanced large Sums of their own — 'tis hard for Gentlemen to be kept from their Dues, especially at these Times — would it not be well for Mr Hoskins to be furnished with Money to satisfy those Demands?

The foregoing Thots submitted by
Gentlemen
Your most Obedient Servant

J Trumbull Junr
Administ^r on Estate of the Deceas'd Jos Trumbull

Phila 10th March 1779 —

※ NB — a Commission arising on the late Com^y G^l Accounts, will at this Time, form but a very small comparative Sum — computing agreable to the present Value — the Amount of his Monies having arisen from a fixed Currency, which is now exceedingly altered —— whereas the Amount of Monies advanced the present Comm^y G^l Depart^t & the Commission arising thereon, bear a continued Proportion to each other — each one keeping Pace with the Accumulation of Prices — the present Commissary General has a Rule by which he knows how to avail himself of a certain Allowance for his Services ——

(No 283)

Dear Sir. Gunston-Hall March 6th 1779.

A late Return of the Rheumatism has at the deter-mined my Son George to try the Effect of some of the Southern Climates of Europe, for a Year or two: He intends to go out in a Vessel which will sail soon from Alexandria; but whether he will fix his Residence in France, Spain, or Italy, must depend upon the Advice of the Physicians in Paris; most probably it will be at Montpelier, or somewhere in the South of France. as he will be entirely a Stranger, You will oblige me exceedingly in giving him Letters of Introduction, as the Son of a Friend of Yours, to Your Brother Doctr. Lee, & Mr. John Adams at Paris; whose Notice will be a great Satisfaction & advantage to him.

him. If You have any particular Commands, he will take pleasure in conveying them; & any Letters You are pleased to favour him with, sent under Cover to me by the next Post, will be in Time.

I shall give him Credit upon a House in Nantes, where I have lodged some Money, drawn from London, a Year or two ago.

I have taken the Liberty to trouble You with two Letters, which I beg the favour of You to forward to France, by the first good Vessel from the Delaware, or the adjacent States; or if any safe Opportunity offers of ~~th~~ sending them to the Northward, perhaps they may go sooner from thence: I shall send Duplicates from Virginia.

I was in Hopes of hearing from You by the last Post. Report says that Congress have received some very important & agreeable Intelligence from Europe. Whether it is really so, & kept secret for Reasons of State

State, or whether it is only some mercantile Manœuvre, we are at a Loss to judge, & begin to suspect the latter.

Eight Vessels are said to have arrived last week at Hampton; but we have not yet heard what they are — We have no late News from the Southward.

I beg my Compliments to Your Brother Colo. F. Lee, and am, very sincerely, Dr Sir

Your affecte. & obdt Servt

G Mason

G. Mason

March 1779

(No 285)

~~No 290~~

No 290

Richard Henry Lee Esqr.

Philadelphia

Nantes

The Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

Bordeaux 12 Mar 1779

Dr Sir

Since the receipt of your favor of the 25th Ulto I had the honor to write you the 6th inst to Paris by yesterdays Post. I am advised from Nantes of your arrival at that Place I find by Mr D'Acosta who is here that they have not Shipt on board our Ships any of the Goods intended for the State of Virginia your presence at Nantes may possibly reinstate the cause of their non complyance by what Mr Haywood writes me there is independant of what they was to Ship to load the three Ships two I am advised are loaded the other for the Cargo is provided at her arrival at Paimboeuf

I flatter myself with the pleasure to see you at this Port as you are on the Coast if your affairs

are

were not urgent elsewhere not that we can promise you much enjoyment, the times don't admit of giving a favorable turn to the New Commercial Alliance so many miscarriages have created failures that alarms the whole Kingdom

The Operations of Mons Demonthieu Beaumar=
=chais &c. appear to meet with some Checks they are not prosecuted with that Vigour which at first they promised, if it was not for the immence Debt that would be contracted by their safe arrival they would give great pleasure to the State as they have onboard to supply many Demands pray how is MGillen likely to succeed in his Operation he is arrived at an unlucky moment so many Capitals being confined in America the proprietors not daring to order them home, should our Ships get safe we

shall be able to load on board on freight for the States as much as the Ships will carry as we do not propose to ship any Goods in America at the rate Produce is on our own Account esteeming it more to our advantage to have our Vessels freighted provided the consignments come to us

By Letters from Bilboa we are advised of two arrivals at that Port from Boston which port they left 28 Jan.y no interesting advices by them —

I am respectfully

Sir

Your very hble Servant

John Bondfield

My dear Friend to in S L Bu [No 284] March 12 - 1779

I thank you for your favor of the 1st. March. [The one you mention to have sent before has never come to hand. I do suppose twas sent to Westmoreland since I came from home. I wish I had got it that I might have complied with your Request. I find even amongst Deanes greatest Admirers there is a falling off and could I have got those papers you allude to I doubt not twould have had a good effect especially as his greatest Patron C Braxton is in a fair way of coming into disgrace.] Mr. James Mercer who came to Town yesterday, tells me he has seen that Gentleman's intercepted Letter and that he thinks it highly criminal. I want no additional Proofs of his Criminality. I have long since been satisfied he was a bad man; however, I shall be glad at a convenient time you would send me the Letter. [I have as you requested animadverted on the Rescinding the 2 Articles of the Treaty, it comes out in Dixons Paper. He could not print this Week the piece signed Commonsense, And Purdie could only publish that

that. I have no doubt but you will soon see your Enemies brought down very low, or rather totally defeated. they cannot much longer delude the public I think.
I find the printers have been very attentive to publish every scurrilous paper agt. your family and Congress, and very seldom can be prevailed upon to print any thing on the other side. However whilst I am in Town I will take care to have it altered. I shall stay till the last of April. We have no interesting News except what you must be informed of that of the Enemy being possessed of Georgia. The South Carolinians are under great Apprehensions & press for Assistance I heartily wish you every Happiness and am

Yours affectionately

Richd. Parker

March 12th. 1779

that. I have no doub

brought down ver

cannot much lo

I find the bri

(No 284)

Free

Honorable Richard Henry Lee esquire

in Congress

Philadelphia

R. Parker – March 12th 79

(~~No 334~~)

last

who

~~4554~~

Dear Sir,

By a Letter, I have just received from Doctr Bancroft, I am led, to imagine that Mr Wharton, has denied, his having ever had such a Letter, as is mentioned in a Certificate, which I shewed you, the morning you called on me, with him, but as he did then acknowledge, that he had had such a Letter, you'll infinitely oblige me, by a line, with a Recapitulation, of what Mr Wharton did say.

I have the Honor to be
Dr Sr

Nantes 13th March 1779. M. L[illegible]

True Copy

the above is a true copy
of a Letter I wrote Capt Jones
at Nantes 13 March

M Livingston

John C. Jones Esqr.

Nantes March 13th 1779.
10 O'Clock at Night

Since I had the honor to receive Mr. Livingston's Letter of this date until this moment I have been out on Business which has prevented a more early answer. — I well remember that in the short conversation, in my Hearing the last time I was in this City, between yourself and Mr. Wharton he did acknowledge having had in his hands a Letter on the subject alluded to in your Certificate which you then shewed me — And I remember also that Mr. Wharton declared he would make Oath that he never had received any Letter or information whatsoever from Doctor Bancroft respecting the subject of your Certificate until after the publication of the Treaty between France and America.

I have the honor to be
Dear Sir
Your most obedient
very Humble Servant
Jno. P. Jones

the above is a True copy, of a Letter I Rec'd in ans.r to a Letter I wrote Capt. Jones 13 march

M Livingston

Passy. March 13. 1779.

Sir,

Finding by a Note of yours on the Back of Mr Williams's Accounts, dated October 6. but which I never saw 'till lately by Accident, expressing that you are "perfectly "satisfyed from his own Accounts that Mr "Williams has now, and has long had in his "hands upwards of an hundred thousand Livres "belonging to the Publick, which have not been "employed in the Publick Use. &ca" I have resolved to have those Accounts carefully examined by impartial Persons skilled in such Business; and if you have any other Objection to them than what appears in your Note, or any other Reasons than what appears upon the Face of his Accounts, for

Honble: A. Lee Esqr.

believing

believing such a Sum in Mr Williams's Hands
I beg you will furnish me with them, that
I may communicate them to the Examiners.
I wish Justice to be done and that you had
shewn your Note either to Mr Adams or
me when you made it; the Matter
would not have been so long neglected.
The Money if due ought to be recover'd immediately.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient & most
humble Servant.

B Franklin

P.S. The Persons I have requested to examine the Accounts are the American Merchants now at Nantes, with our Deputed Commercial Agent, Mr. Schweighauser.

Dr. Franklin

March 13. 1779

No 4 — (a) Instr. to Comrs in France
(b) Contain Lr. Dr.

Selections from Mr. L's
Journal in France
— Papers relating to
French Affairs —
(c) corresp. about Virginia supplies

Notes of Vergennes & Dr.
Mr. L's letters in France
(Mr. L's will make a separate No. to the Comrs 77, 78, 9.)

Correspondence
(d) Mem. to the F. Court on
the cruelties of the enemy.
His Letter to L. North — Dr.
Dr. Price. —

P. in S. & Pr (No 285)

March 15. 1779

Sir,

I was going a few days ago to wait upon Your Honor and not being so happy as to meet You at home I now beg the favour to receive this Address instead of my personal attendance, and deign to lend me for some moments your attention to the same.

You know, Sir, for what purpose I came to this Country, You remember my memorial to Congress and their resolves thereon. My former Commissions & Discharges of Office, my open Certificates and Letters of recommendation have passed through Your hands; I was particularly recommended to Yourself by Your worthy Brother Mr William Lee; You have then honored me with your protection & now in the dismal and melancholy situation of my affairs I crave Your continuance thereof.

Congress, with an allowance of 125 dollars ℔ month, gave me leave to repair to the army as volunteer which I immediately did & there presented to General Washington the same heads of military affairs which I had presented to Congress praying his Excellency to give me orders to comment thereon to which I received no answer. During the campaign I never had the least part in the service, so that without any any fault of mine I was put to a contemptible inactivity.

I am now upon the point to address Congress praying to be appointed Brigadier General of the army: And I much entreat Your Honor to grant me your support of this my reasonable request. As I have from my earliest years been educated in the King of Prussia's seminary of Officers, and,

and as such, during his last septennial wars, served in his army as I have bore the character of Lieutenant Colonel now sixteen years ago; been entrusted with the command of whole regiments and in the service of two monarchs employed in framing new regulations of the army & the exercise; and as I came to this country furnished with very good recommendations, in particular that of the Minister of the war department in France Count de St. Germain who was Field-marshall of Danemark when I was in the King's service — I think that no Officer in the Continental Army should have cause to be disgusted at my preferment — And when I apply for that post, my honor & conscience acquit me of all charges of vanity & presumtion.

Should Congress think proper to reject my petition I am certainly in a wretched situation. I arrived at Charlestown with Letters of Credit for 7000 dollars and upwards of 100 Louisd'or in my purse; the whole I have been obliged to spend in 10 months time; at present I am without friends and money. War has since begun in Europe whilst I waste my precious time in idleness & inactivity here I lose the opportunity of offering my service there.

I am sure, had Mr William Lee known how difficult it is for a foreign Officer to be received in the American service or could he have made the least conjecture upon that excessive dearness which now distresses this Country, his noble his generous heart could not have bore to see me part from him with the false hopes of speedy preferment in a land of plenty, but he and the rest of the American patriots in France have held up to me their beloved

Country

Country in such agreeable perspective that I did not value the dangers and expences which might attend my voyage.

To my great sorrow I heard the other day of General Baron de Kalb that Your honor was about leaving Congress. I beg You, dear Sir, to inform your Brother and others of your Friends in Congress of my Circumstances and bespeak their favour in behalf of my application which I always shall gratefully acknowledge, and remain with particular respect

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant

Philada. March 15th 1779. Colonel de Knobelauch

Col. Knobelauch

March 15th 1779.

With answer of R H Lee enclosed

(No 285)

1779

108

Copy 23

Dear Sir. Philadelphia March 15. 1779

I have not been unmindful of the small com=
-mission you gave me to procure the [illegible] and [illegible]
for you. I once had these, but they are mislaid so that
I could not find them when I returned home from
Williamsburg, or they should have been sent from
thence. I have here applied to Mr. Peters for the one
and to Mr. Shippen for the other, and I have hopes of
getting them both. I send you herewith a small pamphlet containing
a collection of such papers and proceedings as clearly
defeats the calumny of the British Commissioners
charging this war to our ambition, when the Tyranny and
avarice of the British Court most indubitably produced
and has continued it.

That our enemies will not get aid from any power in
Europe to carry on the war against us is very certain, and
the probability is great that Spain will speedily join in
the war with France against England. Yet such is the

lam her

temper of the British Court that it seems clear to me
that nothing but the severest gripes of adversity and
the last necessity can inspire wisdom and moderation.
They certainly mean another campaign, a last effort; a
Georgia & South Carolina, with the frontiers and sea co
appear to be their objects at present. Whether Gen. Clinton
will take the field or not must depend on the succors
he shall receive and the strength of our army. The flat
royal visits that are industriously paid to the Nobi
and gentry of England may probably give such encou
to the militia as to enable the sending a small
reinforcement from their national troops to Gen. Cl
With our present prospects every nerve should be
strained to make our Army strong. By being prep
we shall have a moral certainty of defeating the
designs of our enemies the next campaign, which will
in my opinion put a glorious period to the war.

I am with much esteem and affection yours

Richard Henry Lee.

15 March '79

Dear Sir

in consequence of a Letter I have Just Rec.d from Doct.r Bancroft I am determined to com to Paris, the Moment I can dispatch My Friends Ships that have been put under My direction; it is not Very conviniant as you will Naturally Supp. but, If I was Oblig.d to take that Journey on foot I would chearfully undertake it. I have the Honor to be Dear Sir

Your Most Obt. Hble. Servt.

M Livingston

NB
I will then give you the necessary Direction &c.

Nantes, 15 March 1779

(No 286)

Phil.a 16 March 1779

Sir,

I am much concerned that the state of my health prevented me from seeing you when you did me the honor of calling at my lodgings, and my concern is very greatly increased by knowing that it is absolutely out of my power to ~~assist~~ promote your views. as you have expressed them in your favor of the 15 instant. If Sir my powers were equal to my wishes which are ~~which~~ founded on the conviction I have of your merit, most certainly you would be gratified in your desires. But I should think my=self much to blame if I encouraged hopes where I was convinced that none can be entertained. The state of the army, the opinion of Congress on such cases, and the fact being that there are many more Officers of all ranks than men to be commanded, will I fear render it impossible for you to succeed — Your situation affects me greatly, but how to better it, is a difficulty that I know not in which way here, to remove. I have the honor to be with real esteem and regard Sir your most obedient and very humble servant

Richard Henry Lee

R. H. Lee to Col. Knobelock
March 16th. 1779
(No 286)

March 15. 1779
Colo. Knobelauch

1779

To the Honorable
Richard Henry Lee Esquire
Member of Congress

E. in S L M— (No 287) March 16 1779

My dear Sir

I sincerely rejoice with you, that the Torrent of Faction begins to subside, & that the People are returning to a more dispassionate Way of thinking than they have been in for some time past. In the first Moments of Misrepresentation, the Vulgar are too apt to be lead away, and from a generous tho' improper Passion become Dupes to the Artifices of any designing Villain, who will be hardy enough to traduce the most virtuous Characters. But sooner or later they will recover from their Frenzy, & do Justice to that Innocence which they before abused. In your Case, as they have been precipitately hurried on to give Credit to Mr. Deane's Assertions, so they will upon cooler Reflection acknowledge your Integrity, & do Justice to the injured Character of your Brother. Your Brother's Zeal in getting the 11th. & 12th. Articles of the Treaty of Commerce rescinded must prove to America his Attention to her Interests; & Mr. Braxton's inter=cepted Letters ought to convince the World, that the Opposition to you & your Family arises from private Resentment only. Pray, my dear Sir, remember your

Promise to send me the Paper which contains those Letters. I have seen one of them, & feel my Curiosity the more raised to see the others.] If it would not give you too much trouble to collect them, I should be much obliged to you for all the Pieces, on both Sides, which relate to your Dispute with Mr. Deane. I have seen but few of them, for we seldom get a Paper from Philadelphia.] We have for some time past had our Expectations raised very high, by various Accounts being brought us that Congress had some very important Intelligence from Europe, which they mean to communicate shortly to the World. If it is not among those Arcana which must not be uttered, may I ask you what the News is? But if the Secret must be kept in still longer, only say whether the News is good or bad. I hear nothing new from the Southward. Please to offer my Love to Col^o. Lee & his Lady. I am, my dear Sir, with the greatest Esteem

Your affectionate
Mann Page. Junr.

Mannsfield
March 16th. 1779

No. 364

Richard Henry Lee Esquire

in Congress

at Philadelphia

to a

J. Page esqr.
~~May~~ March 16th 1779

(~~No 364~~)
(No 287)

1779

17 March 79

Je prie Mr. Grand de vouloir bien accepter
& payer pour le Compte des Etats Unis particulier
la traitte de Mrs Joseph Gardoqui & fils
de Bilbao de £ 25000 je dis de
Vingt Cinq Mille Livres Tourn.s du 5 Mars
à 60 jours de date à leur ordre

Paris le 17 Mars 1779.

Paris
Hon A Lee Esq

Bordeaux 18 Mar 1779

Sir

By last Post I received from Mr Haywood Bills of Loading for the Goods shipd on board our Ships the Governor Livingston & Le Chasseur making together Three hundred & fifty eight Tons amounting at 120th p Ton to Forty two Thousand nine hundred and Sixty Livres for which you will please to give me Credit and the drafts at Foot you will please to Accept and pass the same to my debit

The long delays these Vessels met with involved us in many heavy unexpected expences which with other adventures wherein we are concernd that the irregular course of Buisness at these times prevents duely returning cramps us and obliges me immediately to have recourse to our Funds as they come to hand to discharge my engagemts

I have this Post Letters from Hon W Lee Esq dated Frankfort 7 March & I ho e my Letters to him of the

the 19th thro' your Channel will be at his hands so as to take off the impression which by their not getting to him may have created at my seeming silence and will I apprehend amply refute the Part they have in Mr Deanes charges —

I am respectfully

Sir

Your very Hble Servt

John Bondfield

Note of Bills drawn

17 March	at 6 months date	favor Bory freres & Co.		4800
"	do		do	4600
"	do		do	4400
"	do		do	4000
"	do		do	3800
"	do		do	3600
"	do		do	3400
"	do		do	3200
"	do		do	3000
"	do		do	2573
				37373

The Honble Arthur Lee

To the Owners of the Ships Governor Livingston and Le Chasseur

Dr.

6 Mar.	for freight pr the Governor Livingston as pr Bill of Loading 238½ tons	@ 120	28620.—
	for freight pr the Chasseur as pr Bill of Loading 119½ tons	@ 120	14340.—
			42960.—

Bordeaux 17 March 1779

John Bondfield

Monsieur

Je vais faire remettre à Messieurs les Fermiers Generaux la lettre que vous m'adressiés pour eux & j'aurai l'honneur de vous en procurer la réponse.

Je remarque par la correction que vous avez faite à l'approbation que je vous avois prié de me donner de la traite sur moi pour vôtre Compte de Mrs. J. Gardoqui & fils de Bilbao de ₶ 12554.5 — à 75 jours de date, que vôtre intention n'est point qu'elle soit portée comme les précedentes au compte particulier que vous avez chez moi, mais à celui des Etats unis. je vous prierai Monsieur à cette occasion de me procurer l'autorisation de Mr. le Docteur Franklin, ou de me dire si vous souhaitez que je la lui demande de vôtre part, en ce dernier cas j'aurai l'honneur de vous informer aussitôt de sa réponse.

Ignorant quelles peuvent être vos intentions à l'egard d'une derniere disposition sur moy pour vôtre Compte, de Mrs. Jos. Gardoqui

Monsieur A. Lee Hôtel d'Espagne Rue Guenegaud

fils de Bilbao je prens la liberté de vous remettre une aprobation, à signer à l'ordinaire de cette partie.

Vous me ferés la grace Monsieur de me repondre sur ces objets, et d'être bien persuadé des sentiments respectueux avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être

Monsieur

Votre très humble & obeissant serviteur

Paris le 18 mars 1779

[illegible]

Miss Lee

(No 288)

Dear Sir Wmsburg March 19th 1779

Your Letter from Chantilly by some Accident or other did not reach me till 5 or 6 Weeks after ye date of it - I immediately gave the Letter which was inclosed in it to Mr Purdie - & should have acknowledged the Receipt of it had I not been so engaged in Business that the Post set out before I had Time to write - & since that my Affairs have been such, that I have been either at Rosewell when the Post Days happened, or in such a Hurry here as to forget that I ought to have answered your Letter. I shewed your Letter to some of my Acquaintance who seemed well satisfied with it - As to myself I can assure you I had no Doubts - And I believe few People I am acquainted with have any remaining, except some Suspicions of Dr Lee's being too much attached to his English Friends, that Part of the Charge seems still to make an Impression on some Peoples Minds - I suppose you have seen our Governors Letter to our Delegates respecting H. Ford the Doctr's Secretary - Ford was charged but not by the best Testimony, with having brought over from England Types, Paper &c for the Woodwards, & with actually passing counterfeit Money - He was charged upon better Authority with going on Board the St Albans british Ship of War - the latter was long since publickly talked of - the former Charge is still I suppose a Secret, & was made by a Person who

I believe was utterly ignorant of Ford's being in France & in his present Employment. A few Days after the ~~Infor~~ Information was given respecting Ford's being concerned with the Money Makers, & which came out during an Enquiry into the Conduct of one of the Williamson's, I received a Letter, a Duplicate of one which Dr. Lee had written to the Governor, which was signed by Hezekiah Ford Secretary. It is to this Letter the Governor alludes in his to our Delegates. For my own Part although I believe Ford is a very great Rascal, & suspect he has been the Means of our losing the valuable Cargoe of Military Stores which we have payed for in France & I believe were shipped in Sepr. yet I am perfectly satisfied that the Doctr. has not the least Suspicion of his Villainy. Ford is an artful Fellow he imposed upon several Gentn. who saw him in France, & would have imposed upon the Governor by Number of Letters which he wrote to him, had he not been well informed of his going on Board the St. Albans. We have no News here but are anxious to know what the important Intelligence is which Congress have receiv

I am dear Sir y^r. affect^te Friend & h^ble. Servt.

John Page

Free Page

To

The Honble

Rich^d. H. Lee

at

Philad^a.

Rose
Ston
Lowe

1779

John Page of Rosewell

letter 18

18 Letters

~~No. 341~~

(No 288)

Mr. Grand a l'honneur de faire mille complimens à Monsieur Lee, En consequence de ses ordres, ils n'accepteront pas la traitte de Mr. Gardoqui du 21. fev. dont il fait mention, mais il accepte Conformement à son aprobation celle de £ 2500. —

Ce 20 mars 1779.

A Versailles le 20th Mars 1779

J'ai communiqué à M. le Pce de Montbarey, Monsieur, la lettre par laquelle vous m'avez fait part de l'impossibilité où se trouvent l'etat de Virginie de payer actuellement la valeur des effets d'Artillerie qui lui ont été cédés de la part du Roy, Je joins ici une copie de la reponse de ce Ministre, vous y verrez les dispositions qu'il se propose de faire par raport à ces effets.

J'ai l'honneur d'être tres parfaitement Monsieur, votre tres Hble & tres Obeisst Serviteur

(Signé) De Vergennes

true Copy Compaird
A. Gillon

M. Arthur Lee

Translation

Versailles 20th March. 1779

I have communicated to the Prince Montbarey the Letter in which you informed me of the impos-

bility of the State of Virginia's paying at present for the Artillery which his Majesty has furnished them. I subjoin a copy of that Minister's answer, by which you will see what he proposes to do.

I have the honor &c
signed De Vergennes

Copie d'une Lettre de M. le Pce. de Montbarey a M. le Cte. de Vergennes

A Versailles le 16 Mars 1779.

J'ai Mr. rendu compte au Roi de la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'ecrire le 21 du mois dernier et de l'impossibilité où M. Lee vous a mandé qu'etoit l'Etat de Virginie de payer au Roi la somme de 256,633ll 7s 10d pour le montant des effets d'Artillerie qui lui ont été fourni des arsenaux de sa Majesté; Elle n'etoit point dans l'intention de le presser sur ce remboursement, mais comme l'arrivée de ces effets à leur destination ~~etoit~~ seroit fort incertaine, si on les faisoit partir dans les circonstances actuelles, sa Majesté se reserve les moyens de les faire ~~passer~~ livrer a cet etat aussitot que leurs passage sera plus assuré, Vous voudrez bien en attendant prevenir M. Lee que je donne des ordres pour la rentrée de ces effets dans les magazins de Nantes

J'ai l'honneur &c

true Copy Compared
A. Gillon

See the translation overleaf

Translation of Prince Montbarey's Letter.

I have informed the King of the Letter Sir, which you did me the honor to write me the 21st of last month, of the impossibility Mr. Lee finds of the State of Virginia paying the King the Sum of 256,633.tt 7.s 10.d for the Artillery that was furnished from his Majesty's Arsenal.

It was not intended to urge this payment, but as the passage of these effects was very doubtful in the then circumstances, his Majesty reserves to himself the furnishing them when their passage can be more sure; You will therefore be so good as to apprize Mr. Lee, that I give orders for their being restored to the King's Magazine at Nantes.

I have the honor &c

Dear Sir (No 289) King William Mar 21. 1787

I enclose you a News paper, containing a publication of Mr Braxtons in which you are pretty freely dealt with. I distrust my abillities or I would endeavour to strip this Wolf of his Sheeps clothing and Dis like public boils. In his heart I am confident he is a Tory, but his Interest binds him in favour of Independance, his desperate circumstances involv'd him in several desperate measures previous to Independance or indeed to the commencement of hostillities, in contracts for Intail'd Lands which of themselves will be a fortune to him if he can secure, and he has made immense sums by his destructive speculations, his foreign Trade has been unfortunate. Strange it is that men of this Stamp, are chiefly those who ~~[illegible]~~ reap the first fruits of the good & virtuous in their noble resistance to the Tyranny of our Oppressors, while they are wasteing their time & Substance in the Struggle. to whom it must be a mortifying reflection & enough to damp their Ardor ~~[illegible]~~ These men and their posterity from their Wealth, are likely to enjoy, the honours and advantages, arising from the labour & Blood Shed of honest men, whose

toils they have more injuriously oppos'd than the Common Enemy.

Corn had had a most rapid fall all over the Country and flour I doubt not will shortly follow, Istrait as I said to you before wait the Event. haveing enough for present purposes, my Meat purchase has been great, and when compar'd with other articles, upon very moderate terms. I begin again to want money, my Meat purchase, with contengent expences with acapitol purchase of Salt & what Wheat & flour we have obtaind, Leave me only £47360.18 in hand includeing my reward of which I have not yet touch'd a half penny for a year past. three of my Assistants will require this ballance immediately & if I am not speedily supply'd, I may loose the opportunity of embraceing the favourable moment of my agency. I have written to Col. Wadsworth but I understand he is absent, your interest in forwarding a supply will oblige

D Sir

Your Ob Ser.

William Aylett

The Beef purchase for the Convention Folks will shortly commence, purchasers will be immediately dispatched to make Engagements. but I don't know but it may be better to hold back awhile, as early an application, may carry with it too much the appearance of necessity. WA.

dence

Aylett

1779

Honble Richard Henry Lee Esqr
In Congress
Philadelphia

Wm Aylett
Mar 21st 1779

~~No 8.~~
(No 289)

William Aylett
Letter March 21. 1779
public

Commissary Aylett
Mar 21 1779
No 8

My dear 72aVII   Philadelphia March 21 1779

I refer you to mine by Capt. Robinson written when I was on my way to this place. I found when I arrived here that the ssbxxxtn of y 31XXX 382bXI had pursued his 66aXXVIII's so 141a1 that without 135a[redacted] VI's, 1156bXXVIII and his 156aXIX have lapsed into 175aXXXI 1016bXXXVI. A more 421bXXIII 334aIV I really think never 129aXXVIIIed and 209,6Xed 345aXXXII. 423aXXVII in 135aVI's the 156aXIX 102bVI to 152bVIII 373bV, but I donot think 373aIX can 361bXIII. However 374aIX are 259aXXIII and 51aXXV; therefore 426bXXVIII will not be surprised at 185bIV what 238b1. But provide all possible 294bXXXVI's of 115bXXVIII's 224aXV. His 82bXXXVI 40,bXXXIII's at 426bXXVIII are 366aIII, 197bII, 40bVII, 186,bXIV of the 170,aXXIV and that you 208aXXXVIIed 230bXVI 336aIII 73bXXXVI of the 382b XXVII on the day of 338bXVIIing. For all this 52bXIValone is 293aXXVIIed — But 406bXXXIV him 146aXX appears to induce the most 393aXVIII 366aIII's — This they know and therefore loosing 192bXIII of 364,bXXing 115bXXVIII their [redacted] 192bXIII now is to make you 156bXXVIII also. But here will be the puzzle. Their 319bXXV is not less 40bXXXII [redacted] 455bXXVI — The 82bXXXVI's against are 238 bXXIVes and going 335aXXIII's with the 41aIV's he 48b XXXIIIed — But there is no 294bXXXVI. Yet 144bXII, 54bXVI, 147aXXXIII, and 379bVIIism can make what they cannot otherways find, and believe for gratification things that exist not. Should they act so injuriously I hope you will 48bV to the public, so that shame

and

and disgrace may fall on the wrong doers
With composure therefore 92 a IIII your 294 b XXX V I o

Give my best love and respects where you know them to be due

455 b XX I 455 a XX V 225 a V

P. S. Mr. 455 a X I 454 a V's has 425 b XXX III greatly in 426 b XXX II to S. 454 a V's —

I can neither send newspapers nor be more large & particular because I am not acquainted well with the conveyance, and my notice is short.

Letter Book V. 6. p 4th

To his Excellency Count Vergennes

Paris March 22d 1779

I had yesterday the honor of receiving your Excelleneys Letter of the 20th enclosing one from the Prince Montbarrey, to inform me of his intention to give orders for the re-entry of the Artillery & Munitions of war, which his Majesty had the goodness to furnish to the pressing wants of the State of Virginia, & which have been shipt at a great expence to the State, as well as to his Majesty

Events have happend since I had the honor of writing to your Excellency upon this subject on the 16th of Feby which compel me to beseech you, to use your utmost influence in preventing this resolution from being carried into execution; as I apprehend nothing can be in the actual circumstance of things, more detrimental & even fatal to the State of Virginia, & consequently to the common Cause.

I mentiond to your Excellency, that immediately upon your assurance, that these

these things would be furnished by his Majesty I wrote to inform the State of it: & I have written so repeatedly since, that there is a moral certainty of the information having reached them.

This we may reasonably suppose, will have prevented them from providing from other quarters, these necessary Articles of defence.

We are now certain of the Enemy's having transferred the war to the southern States, & my intelligence from England is such, that I can assure your Excellency they mean to push the war there, and to invade the State of Virginia as soon as they can send out the re-enforcements of troops wh. are now preparing with great diligence. In this situation his Majesty's goodness in having so readily furnished the Artillery & Munitions required will, if they should be actually stopt, prove, in all probability the destruction of the State, by leaving it defenceless to the Enemy's invasion.

With regard to the risque this furniture runs in going at present, which is stated as the reason for recalling it, I have the pleasure of informing your Excellency that I yesterday received a Letter from Nantes advising

me, that the Convoy was arrived & only waited for a fair wind to sail with all the American vessels at Paimbeuf. The vessel too in which these munitions are shipt is well armed; & the State will be obliged to pay, as I am informed upon enquiry, in freight & expences, upwards of forty thousand Livres for nothing, if the Articles are stopt.

These reasons will I hope convince your Excellency, that my apprehensions of the injurious consequences of recalling what what was furnished, are well founded; & will weigh with you to obtain the stoppage or revocation of the order for their detention.

There has lately appeard in the London Papers, an intercepted Letter from a tory Gentleman in Virginia, & I have information that the british ministry are in possession of several more of the same kind, encouraging an attack upon that State. I have no doubt that this will confirm & quicken the designs of the Enemy, therefore have additional reason for conjuring your Excellency to obtain permission for the departure of the munitions in question.

I must beg the favor of

being apprised, as soon as possible of his Majesty's ultimate determination.

I have the honor to be &c

signed A. Lee

True Copy Compard

A. Gillon

(No 288)

Paimbœuf March 22d 1779

Dear Sir

I wrote you from Nantes the day I left it. I came here the same evening — We have had the equinoxial gale — the weather is now moderate & if the wind is fair tomorrow morning your friends will embark on board the Belle Poule Capn. Atwood, & proceed under convoy to Brest, instead of Isle d'Aix; the Vessels wch have been collected at that rendez vous, we are informed will be also conducted from thence to Brest. What protection we are to have from that port or how long we shall be detaind there are not made known to us — On my arrival there I shall write you. Continue to address your letters to Mr. J. Dl. Schweighauser — The day before yesterday a Letter was recd. here from Nantes addressed by Dr. Franklin to Messrs. W. Blake Dl. Blake, J. Johnson, P. R. Fendall, J. Wharton, Mr. Ridley, Mr. Ross, Lloyd, C. Ogilvie & J. D. Schweighauser, requesting in a particular manner that we would exa-

-mine

examine the accounts of Mr. Jon. Williams, & report our
opinion thereupon. Mr. Wharton who was here set off
immediately for Nantes, from whence he is not re-
turned, the Gentlemen wait to see him, before they
determine upon a reply. With respect to myself
I cannot possibly defer my embarkation, nor do I ap-
prehend that either of the Mr. Blakes or Mr. Ogilvie
are the least disposed to do it — If you receive any news
from America particularly Carolina, by all means
risque the transmission of it to me — as the infor-
mation may be not only satisfactory, but necessary
for our government in proceeding upon the Coast

Adieu sincerely yours

J. L

True Copy from the
original letter in the hand
writing of John Lloyd Esqr.
Ludwell Lee

Paris
R. Izard Esqr.

(No 283) 1779

John Lloyd

to

A. Lee

(28th March 1779.)

Copy of Lloyds

Lettr about exam.

Williams's Accts

(No. 286)

L'Orient March 24th 1779.

Dear Sir

You no doubt are equally surprised at my long silence as at my dating my Letter from this Place, I can assure you nothing but the desire of ~~essentially~~ serving my country could have detain'd me in France & I make no doubt but you will approve of my Conduct. I shall always hold in grate-full remembrance the Favour's you have shewn me, an account of which I have

sent to America; your Letter's & some other Papers I have enclosed to your Brother the Honᵇˡᵉ Richard Henry Lee Esqʳ, & hope you may be able to confute the malitious assertions of your Enemies in America; I can assure you, that you have two warm advocates in Messʳˢ Livingston & Brooke, Doctor Brooke stays with me, I wish you a speedy journey to Spain at which Court may you never have any Clogs, & may you allways preserve the esteem of your Countrymen.

I have the Command of two ~~Hundred~~ & fifty men & expect to visit the coast of England this Summer, when I shall strive to do Honour to my my Country.

my Compliments to Mr. Ford & your —
nephew I am Dear Sir

Your Much Obliged &
Very Hum.ble Ser.t
Alexr Dick.—

L'ORIENT

10

The Honble. Arthur Lee Esqr.

Chaliot

Pres Paris.

rue guenegaud

Alexr. Dick
to
A. Lee
(24th March 1779.)
(No 286)

Count Sarsfield's compliment to Mr. Lee —
& begs the honour of his company at Dinner
Wednesday next 31 instant

Rue pot fer thursday march ye 25th

the favour of an answer is desired

Honble F. L. Lee Esqr

My Dr Sir

Paris 26 March 1779

The inclosed copy of mine of the 20 Decr ulto contains almost as much as I can say on my private affairs except that you may deliver or not as you think best the inclosed Letter to Col. G. Mason if I have time to write one. I now understand that all property of every kind is taxed 1½ P Cent in Virga so that what money of mine has been put into the Continental Loan Office ~~well~~ which has been sufficiently reduced already will soon come to nothing at all. If I am to receive paper for money advanced in London surely the same paper must be legal payment to my Creditors for Sterling debts & I beg that it may be tender'd to them. As to the annual produce of my Estate & the interest at least of what has been already put into the Continental Loan Office, I cou'd wish it to be remitted to me in Bills on Paris if they are to be got; which I suppose is possible, as there have been a great many drawn on the Comrs here & some ~~[illegible]~~ purchased at 300 P Cent. — My object in desiring this remittance is to get something for my Family to Live on, since it seems more than probable that my public appointment either is already, or will be soon at an end, if it is not, unless Congress fall upon some sure mode of supplying the expences the Commn must cease of itself, for Notwithstanding the resolve of Congress last year Doctr Franklin has refused to supply either Mr Izard or myself with any more money, tis true the other two Comrs did last Janry give to my use 1000 Louisdors, but if I

I[d] be permitted to go to Vienna or Berlin this year wh. at present does not seem to me very improbable, wht. remains of that sum now will last but a very little while indeed. At Vienna the English & French Embassadors House rent alone costs 1000 Guineas a year. — If no material alteration takes place in my appointmt. I shall be obliged to you for getting the Comee. for Foreign Affairs to write at least to the Minister here insisting on his complying with the former resolution of Congress relative to our Expences at the same time you will please to let me know what is done on this point that I may be able to regulate my affairs in time accordingly. —

I have written so largely to Congress & R. H. Lee that I have little to say here, but I agree entirely with the wise Man you know who that wrote me 18 Months ago, that it was certain if you were ruind, it must be by yr. selves. I cannot yet believe that C. is so lost to itself or the people of America so blinded as to be duped or led into acts of folly or ... by the impudence & wickedness of S. Deane & his party, but I know him & C.m.l so well that I am sure they will be perpetually busied in some plot & I wish that Congress may not spend more time abt. them than 1000 such ——— are worth, & by that means neglect some considerations that are essentially necessary for your security & defence, for our Enemies seem more elated with what they think a great division in Congress & among the People at large than the success they have had in Georgia than they have ever been yet, so that they are determind at this moment on their old plan of unconditional submission. I think the prospect

but seems to look as if the War would still be long & in common sense America should look forward & be pro-vided as well as she can for such an Event, which will be the most effectual mode of shortening its duration, but you may lay it down as a maxim that the Obstinacy of the King of G. B. (who is now as absolute in G. B. as the K. of Prussia is in Berlin) is such, & his malignity so great, that he will never make peace on Independent or honorable prin-ciples for Am.a while there is the least glimmering hope of success. Lord Bute & the Scots are his only favorites & you know too well what they are. We have a great deal to do against the Brute & his Scotch Mirmidons before we can hope for Peace & I am sure they must be driven from off the Continent before they will be brot to Reason. Take all the care you can of False ~~[illegible]~~ Brethern among yourselves, your Johnstone says there are some working for his Wages & I think they may be discover'd, for surely their first object will be to create dissentions & with the true Scotch cunning flattering the People into an Idea of their Security, while fire, sword, chains & tortures are preparing for them. If you are but prepared on your guard & United do not fear what our Enemies can do against you & yr best security will be to rely on your own efforts & not too much on any external aid. Though you may be properly supplyed for this Campaign, for I understand that no part of the contract made with no body knows who under the name of Hortalez & Co will be complyed with; at least, nothing that I can hear of, has been done yet. Your sound Judgment needs no caution, but I wish some of our near friends would remem-ber that it is not all gold that glisters, & that all the funds wch some people have to traffic on, are fine words professions & promises

which they never think of afterwards, unless 'tis to laugh at those who think they mean any thing by them. Give this hint to those you may think wants it. Spain as yet keeps aloof but her immense preparations for War continue with as much vigor as ever & she is more formidable at Sea than she has been since the famous Armada. 'Tis supposed she will either force a peace, or commence the War with G. B. before this campaign is over. I cannot pretend to say what is in the womb of time, but it appears to me not within the chances hardly of possibility, that G. B. should subjugate America if she is but firm, active & unanimous.

I am here for reasons you will see mention'd to Congress but Dr. F— no doubt from motives of malignity & something worse refuses to give me any assistance, I shall however do all that is in my power for our Country & shall return in a day or two to Germany. The Doctr. & his Junto, it is said expect S. D. over here every day, cloath'd in Triumph & cover'd with honors; however his great support with you is recall'd & a much better Man apparently, appointed to succeed him. I left my Family not very well tho' 'tis increased by a Boy, that is call'd Brutus, least there sh.d be in his a Tarquin or a Caesar in America.

My sincerest Love attends you & my dear Sister. Remembrance to Dr. Sh: & Love to My Sister & her family. Let me hear from you, I pray, by every safe conveyance & believe most truely & Affectly. Yrs. W. L.

P. S. I have, during the last Winter, sent you two powers of atty relative to the Estate by diff.t conveyances, pray let me know as soon as either get to hand.—

(29)

George Mason Esqr
Virginia

Paris March 26.th 1779

Dear Sir.

I had very lately the honor of receiving in Germany your favor of the 8.th of October last, wherein you complain of the low price of the Tobacco you were pleas'd to consign to me in the year 1775, & say that had the Tob.^a been kept up as you desired, it wou'd have produced more than double the sum. — Neither of these complaints, I think you wou'd have made, had you looked at your sales for about the same quantity of Tobacco you consign'd that year to other Houses in London, & had recollected your positive advice as repeated [illegible] a speedy sale. — I am pretty sure that [illegible] say that the nett proceeds of the Tob.^o which you consign'd to me is higher than that you consign'd in the same year to other Houses: Had you not positively recommended a speedy sale, I cou'd not have kept your Tob.^o longer, as it was so hard priz'd in several parts, as to decay even before it was sold, therefore on some of the Hhds I was oblig'd to make the purchaser a considerable allowance, even after the delivery, & for

for what was actually rotten; which allowance is not in your sales, but paid out of my own pocket. —

Your suspicion that my letter of the 22d. May 1777, tho' dated in London, was written from Nantes, & that I studiously avoided mentioning any thing to you abt. your Dft. to Messrs. Gruel & Co. is not well founded & when you come to know the fact, it will shew you how improper it is, to judge ill of any person, on supposition & appearances.

When I was call'd from England in 1777 to serve my Country, tho' I was oblig'd to leave it at a very short warning, knowing that many of the Accts. of sale that had been before sent to my friends in Virginia had been intercepted by the Enemy, I had all those for the year 1775 copied and inclosed in Letters which I brought over with me, thus prep[illegible] France, ready to forward by the first eligible opportunity, w[illegible] did not meet with, till Capt. Barron by whom they were sent. Your Bill to Jenefer & Hoe I had advice of by a letter from France just before I left London, & left orders for it's being paid which was done. The Bill to Gruel & Co. was presented to me at Nantes from whence I did not write to you about it, being then much occupied with business & affairs that requir'd immediate & all my attention, therefore only said a word or two to my Brother about

[illegible]

~~about it.~~

You finally insist on the Ballance due to you being paid in Europe & say "I have certainly a legal as well as just right to the benefit of the Exchange for my own money in another Country" — had you added that what was legal and just in yr. case, was also legal & just for every other person, I shou'd certainly join issue with you; but can you in your Conscience say, that it is legal & just for me to receive in paper, many thousand pounds Sterling, some of them advanced in London Seven Years ago without having receiv'd to this day, one shilling for Interest or Comn.; and at the same time that I shou'd be expected to pay what I owe, here in Europe, where paper money is of no value?

But my good Sir, neither you, nor I, can accomplish impossibilities; it is in truth out of my power to pay your Ballance here; for being oblig'd, as I before mention'd, to leave England at a short warn[illegible] to convert my effects into rea[illegible] money, [illegible] to get payment for Bonds, Bills, &c, that I had in my hands, consequently my property in Europe was almost entirely left in England; where it is still withheld from me & from the present appearance of things, it will be withheld from me for ever. You must have been inform'd that my employment in the public Service has by no means been a profitable one, tho' it imploys my whole

Wm Lee to Geo Mason
March 26th 1779

time; therefore with all the desire in the world to fetch
you, I am at present utterly incapable of complying
with your request, which you will probably believe
when I assure you, that neither from debts or the
produce of my Estate have I receivd one farthing of
remittance since 1775. I am, & must remain,
with great Esteem & regard

Dr Sir
Y^r Most oblig^d & ob^t Hbl^e S^t
W. Lee

Copie de la lettre de M. le Cte de Montbarey à M. le Cte de Vergennes

à Versailles le 26 mars 1779.

Je reçois Monsieur votre lettre d'hyer sur les représentations de M. Lee, je mande au Directeur de l'artillerie à Nantes que [illegible] les effets et munitions qui avoient été cédés à l'Etat de Virginie suivent leur première destination, vous voudrez bien en prévenir ces Anciens Députés.

J'ai l'honneur d'être &c.

[illegible] letter of yesterday. before the Representations of Mr. Lee I have ~~ordered~~ ~~directed~~ informed the Director of Artillery at Nantes that [illegible] his Majesty's pleasure that the warlike Stores which were granted + to the State of Virginia should pursue their first + [illegible] — You will be so good as to communicate this to the late Commissioners. I have the honor &c.

+ to the — destination —

My dear Friend   Fm R. Pr. - (No 290) March 26 - 1779

Your Letter of the 16th by Post came safe to hand and I confess I was disappointed in not geting ~~the~~ Braxtons Letter. He has published a partial extract of them in Purdies Paper, but he is universally condemned by all from his own state. [I mentioned to you in one of my former letters (for I have written by every post) that I had ~~never~~ got yours inclosing the papers written agt. Deane, nor have they yet come to hand; however, he is very low in the Opinion of all here. I find it hardly possible to get any paper of consequence published here. The printers have advertised they will not publish any Controversial pieces but for a very high Price.] I am surprised you have not got any of my Letters sent by post you certainly ought to have recieved those sent a fort-night ago. If they miscarry it must be by unfair means.

[I inclose you the Bill for the general Diffusion of Knowledge. they are just printed & very few of our Acts of last session are yet printed.] I wish a Printer could be procured from the Northward, for ours have got to such a pass as to neglect every thing.

[I imagine it will not be unpleasing to you to know that the famous Cause of Taff vs Yerley is this day determined in favor of my Client & that I am to have £5000. for my trouble. Let Col. Frank know it I am sure he will be pleased.] We have nothing stirring here. give my best Respects to your Brother & his Lady & the spunk. I am very affectionately your friend & Servt

Rich. d Parker

March 26th 1779

(No. 290)

Richd Parker
March 26th 1779
[~~No. 355~~]

1779
No. 355

Free

Honorable Richard Henry Lee esquire
in Congress
Philadelphia

27 March 79

Monsieur

J'ai reçu l'honneur de votre Lettre du 20 courant a laquelle j'aurois eu celui de repondre le Courier dernier si j'avois pû vous remettre les Conoissements que vous m'a demander, ils sont signés mais Messrs Livingston Haywood & les Capitaines ayant trouvés que leur Navires etoient trop chargés m'ont priés de permettre qu'on en dechargea partie & que le Batiment la Marie Fearon la prendroit come etant un Vaisseau bien armé j'y ai consenti volontiers

& n'ayant

Nantes 27. March 1779.

n'ayant pas encore reçu le rôle de cette opération
je me vois dans la nécessité d'attendre jusqu'au
retour de Mons. Livingston de Paimbœuf pour
vous les faire passer ainsi que le Compte de mes
débours au Chargement — J'ai eu l'honneur
de vous envoyer le [illegible] une liste détaillée
de tous les objets embarqués mais comme c'étoit pour
présenter au Ministre pour exempter l'Etat de
Virginie des Droits qu'on veut me faire payer j'ai
obmis les Sabres de Strasbourg sur lesquels on ne
me fait aucune demande — Mons. Franklin
m'a en effet nommé avec les autres Messieurs [illegible]
pour l'examen des Comptes de M. J. Williams
mais [illegible] point parlé de [illegible] départ
du Convoy pour [illegible] changer [illegible] — je serai
flatté d'avoir votre avis [illegible] attachement [illegible]
[illegible] très respectueusement [illegible] Votre très humble & très
obéissant serviteur
Messieurs —

J. D. Schweighauser

J'ai communiqué à M. le Pce de Montbarey, Monsieur, la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 22. de ce mois, ce Ministre vient de me faire la réponse dont vous trouverez la copie cy jointe, vous y verez que le Roi trouve bon que les effets et munitions cédés a l'état de Virginie suivent leur premiere destination.

J'ai l'honneur d'être très parfaitement, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obeissant serviteur

De Vergennes

Versailles 27 March 1779.

I have communicated Sir, to the Prince de Montbarey the letter which you did me the honor to write me the 22d of this month. This minister has just made me the Answer which I subjoin. You will perceive from that, that the King wills that the warlike Stores furnished to the State of Virginia should follow their first destination.

I have the honor &c

signed De Vergennes

A Monsieur Lee

a Versailles le 27 Mai 1779

J'ai communiqué a M. le Prince Montbarey, Monsieur, la Lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'ecrire le 22 de ce mois. le Ministre vient de me faire la réponse dont vous trouverez la Copie cejointe. Vous y verrez que le Roi trouve bon que les effets & munitions cédées a l'Etat de Virginie suivent leur premiere destination.

J'ai l'honneur &c

signé, De Vergennes

True Copy Compared
A. Gillon

Translation

To Mr Lee

Versailles the 21st May 1779

I have communicated, Sir, to Prince Montbarey the Letter you did me the honor to write me the 22d of this month. This Minister has just made me an answer of which I subjoin a copy. You will there see that the King thinks proper that the supplies furnished to the State of Virginia should follow their first destination.

I have the honor &c.

signed De Vergennes

Copie de la Lettre de M. le Prince de Montbarey a M. le Comte de Vergennes.

a Versailles le 26 Mai 1779

Je recois, Monsieur, votre Lettre d'hier sur les representations de M. Lee, je mande au Directeur de l'Artillerie a Nantes que sa Majesté consent que les Effets et Munitions qui avoient été cédés à l'Etat de Virginie suivent leur premiere destination. Vous voudrez bien en prevenir cet ancien Deputé.

J'ai l'honneur &c —

True Copy Compared
A. Gillon

Translation of the Copy of a Letter from the Prince Montbarey to the Count de Vergennes.

Versailles the 26 May 1779

I received, Sir, your Letter of yesterday.

upon the representation of Mr Lee, I inform the Director of Artillery at Nantes, that his Majesty consents to let the supplies which were furnished to the State of Virginia pursue their first destination. You will be so good as to inform that late Deputy of this.

I have the honor &c

N. 5.

Copies of intercepted Letters from [illegible] [illegible] & M. Grand [illegible] Deane.

Letters from Count Vergennes May 27. March 20th Feb. 16. 1779

Do. from Prince Montbarey May 26 March 16. Feb. 10th

Letter from me to Count Vergennes. March 22d 1779

Gov. S. L. Rec. (No 291) March 30. 1779

My dear Sir

The Irregularity of the Northern Post was the Cause of my not acknowledging your Favour of the 16th, which came too late for me to answer it; but I now thank you for that Letter, & your other of the 22d of March. Our Affairs in Georgia have taken a very favourable turn; the Enemy being forced to retire down the Country, & the disaffected, who were on their March to join Col. Campbell, having been defeated, as we learn from several different Accounts. In a Letter which I wrote to you about a fortnight ago, I mentioned, that our expectations had been greatly raised by Accounts, said to be written by Members of Congress, of Congress having received some very important Intelligence from Europe, which was shortly to be communicated to the Public. If you have received such Accounts, & are not under an injunction to Secrecy, I shall be glad to know the News. Not only to gratify my Curiosity, which, I confess to you, is greatly raised; but that I may counteract the Designs of some wicked Men, who endeavour to persuade the People, that you have received no Intelligence, & that it is only

an Artifice of Congress to give Credit to our depre-
-ciating Currency; & tauntingly say, "parturiunt Montes
& nascitur ridiculus Mus". If you have any News,
(which I cannot doubt) and are not permitted to say what
it is, I shall be glad you will tell me whether it is
good or bad. [The enclosed Paper I would have sent you
by the last Post, if I had known in time that the
N. Post was come in. It will shew you how impotent
an Antagonist you have in Mr Braxton.] Please to
offer my Love to Mrs Lee & your Brother. Adieu
dear Sir,

Your affectionate Friend
Mann Page Junr.

Mannsfield
March 30th. 1779

Mann Page Jr
March 30th 79.

(~~No 365~~)
(No 291)

30 March 79
M. Page jun.
esq.

1779

Richard Henry Lee Esquire
in Congress
at Philadelphia

No 363.

at Philadelphia the 31st. March 1779

(No 287)

Sir,

I have the honor to observe to you, that the proper season for my departure to France advances, and I dare beseech you to engage Congress to hasten the moment of it, as much as lies in their power.

Even if my health did not require this voyage, the circum=stances of things would have engaged me to undertake it, because I am sensible of what importance it is to the common cause that, in the present crisis, no persons but those acquainted with the actual situation of affairs and of the disposition of men in America, and who enjoy unlimited confidence should be charged with that negotiation. Besides this Sir, as I must presume from the wisdom of Congress that they have made the same re=flections, of consequence they have either already chosen, or will soon choose their Ministers Plenipotentiary; since they cannot but be convinced, that the only method of proceeding will be to appoint men who enjoy the fullest confidence of the Courts their friends and Allies, and to arm them with powers the most complete & extensive.

In this case it appears to me proper that I should be accompa=nied by one or more of your Ministers, and this is an additional motive with me for urging that arrangement with which your interests inspire me, by augmenting my earnestness to go to a place where I shall esteem myself happy in bringing the glad tidings that Union & Unanimity reign throughout America. And further Sir I beseech you to inform me, in what manner Congress will think it expe=dient to receive my farewell considering the secrecy which I endeavor to keep in regard to my departure. I flatter myself moreover, that if they think proper to honor me with any commands, they may rely that I ~~trust~~ that I shall bear with me to France the same zeal for their interests & for the common cause of which I have studied to give them convincing proofs during my stay in America — I have the honor to be Sir &c

Copy

Gerard —

Copy of Mr. Gerard's very modest Letter to Congress, 31st March 1779.

(No 287) (~~No 83~~)

(To be put among the Papers relating to the charges vs A Lee)

Copy of Mr. Gerard's very modest letter to Congress 31st March 1779

Copy of Mr. Gerard's very modest letter to Congress 31 March 1779

No 83.

the money appropriated to refugees, and then went directly over to Paris. [Mem. Look for this on the files of the old Congress.] - Gerard.

Saml. Adams & the Lees.

March. 1779. — During the debates in Congress respecting the instructions to be given to our ministers abroad for making peace, the two parties became very warm. It was at first contended by the party, which was not well affected towards the alliance, that the cession of Nova Scotia to the U. S. by England should be insisted on as an ultimatum. This project was defeated by a large majority, on the ground France would not sustain such a proposition, because Nova Scotia had not been conquered, & the U. S. could not with justice claim anything more, than the territory within their original limits. When this had failed, Sam. Adams made another attempt to prolong the discussion about the treaty of peace. He made a motion, that the question then before Congress, Viz. - "Whether Congress should limit its demands to Independence, and to what pertained to the U. S. at the commencement of the Revolution?" — should be deferred, and that they should consider only a treaty with Spain to induce that power to engage in

the war against England. Rich'd. H. Lee seconded the motion. But it was lost by a very large majority.

Mr Gerard took pains to ascertain Sam. Adams's particular motives for the course he was pursuing, in throwing all the embarrassments he could in the way of these preparatory arrangements for peace. He found it to be almost the unanimous opinion of those with whom he conversed, ~~that~~ Adams loved ~~tur~~ moils, and desired a continuance of the troubles, that he might make himself of consequence; — and that the origin of the close union that subsisted between Sam. Adams and the Lees, was the mutual support of John Adams's and Arthur Lee in their foreign transactions. At this time many complaints existed against Arthur Lee, who was in France, and the impressions in Congress against him were too strong to admit of his being chosen as a Plenipotentiary for making peace. The purpose of Sam. Adams & Lee in throwing these obstacles in the way was to defer the choice of a Plenipotentiary, till by various artifices the appointment of Arthur Lee might be effected.

Such were the motives assigned to M. Gerard, but he imagined there

were others of a more political nature. Adams and Lee wished to put off the discussions for peace, till English commissioners should arrive with new overtures; and they flattered themselves that they might become masters of a treaty thus formed, and thus gain to themselves the merit & consequence, which they had lost in the treaty of Paris, which was so much at variance with their views and wishes. This explanation of their conduct is supported by the fact, that they both made an effort in Congress to prevail on that body to treat with the British Commissioners even after the treaty with France had been ratified.

There was a large majority in the Committee, who voted to strike Arthur Lee's name from the list of candidates for foreign appointments, in conformity with the vote of a previous committee, who had considered the subject. Lee's friends continued to entrench themselves behind what they gave out to be the declaration of M. Gerard, that Lee stood well with the French ministry, and had all its confidence. Some of the members came to M. Gerard, and complained anew of this false pretence, and told him that they thought his manner of treating Sam. Adams and Richd. H. Lee gave some grounds for the assertion. M. Gerard went to Lee & told him,

that he must be well aware this report was without foundation, as he had carefully avoided entering into the concerns of either party, and that he had maintained a silence about his brother, except when questioned, & then he had neither criminated nor defended him; & to cite his authority for the standing of A. Lee in the estimation of the French ministry was equally without foundation & justice. Mr Lee answered, that he had neither published nor given currency to this report, nor did he know its origin. Mr Gerard proceeded no further, but observed in his letter to Count Vergennes, that it would be strange if the negociation should not fail, if put into the hands of a person appointed by such sinister & secret means, as were used to secure the appointment of A. Lee.

Gerard.

During the discussion above mentioned, Sam. Adams exclaimed in debate,– "For what reason should we engage to bind our interests so strongly to France?" Then stamping the floor with his foot, he added,– "Here is the place where our independence should be consolidated." This declaration was supposed, in the opinion of many members, to favor the interpretation of his views

mentioned above; that is, that he wished the treaty to be conducted by British Commissioners in the United States, over whom he and his party might exercise an influence.

In debating the subject of the Fish-eries at this period, Sam. Adams said, that "there more & more appeared a necessity of a separation between the south and the north".

Gerard.

Apl. 1779.—Debates about the ministers abroad were continued and new efforts were made to revoke the appointment of Lee. It was said that taking it for granted that the French ministry were not satisfied with him there was no reason why he should not be sent to Spain. The reply was that the ~~Fr~~ Spanish Court would not confide in a man ~~that~~ was suspected by France. The vote was put on Lee's case & the States were divided, 4 against 4, the others having no representatives then in Congress. This seemed to alarm the party or the alliance & Mr Gerard suggested to them, that the king of Spain would not receive Mr Lee. He wrote to Ct Vergennes, ~~that~~ considering the manoeuvres by which the choice was likely to be carried, in addition to the objections against Lee, the king of Spain ought to refuse to receive him as

minister; ~~that~~ Lee was the last person in the world to conduct a negociation, to which his brother, on whom he relied on his appointment, was decidedly hostile; that it was important to the Union of the States & the alliance with France, that the king of Spain should not sanction the appointment. Richd. H. Lee had expressed his opinion to Congress, that the family compact between Spain & France was of such a nature, as to favor their own particular ends, more than ~~that~~ of the alliance, and ~~that~~ the interests of the U. S. would be sacrificed to this attachment. Gerard.

May, 1779. – M. Gerard finds Payne an unmanageable person, and is obliged to dismiss him, & withhold his salary. Payne uses his pen on the wrong side of the question, & is in the interests of the party opposed to the alliance. Two members of Congress recommended another person, who had written well on several occasions, and M. Gerard employed him at a salary of 1000 dols a year, which was to be increased if his services were extended. The Phild^a^ Gazette of May 26th. contains an article by him, signed an "Honest Politician". – Another person offered himself, who had been a

member of Congress, and written over the signature of Americanus. M. Gerard thinks of employing him to support the cause of the Alliance, upon which most of the newspapers are thought to be culpably silent.

Aug. 1779. — Arthur Lee. — When the contest about the choice of foreign ministers ran high in Congress, Mr Gerard communicated freely to some of the members of Congress the opinion entertained by the French ministry of Lee. He thought it very important to defeat his election. Wm Paca, & Wm. H. Drayton, became possessed of all these facts, and presented to Congress in a short memorial against Lee, signed by their own hands. They quoted the following passage from Cᵗ Vergennes' letter, which was shown them by M. Gerard; viz. "Je vous avouerai d'ailleurs que je crains M. Lee et ses entours." It was averred to be owing to this want of confidence, that the French ministry kept the secret of the destination of d'Estaing's fleet from the American commissioners, till the fleet was ready to sail; — also that Lee's conduct had been disgusting to the Court of Versailles; and equally so in Spain when he was there; — and that a negociation attempted by him

under such circumstances could never be successful. This was presented in April. Mr Lovell sent a copy of it to Lee, and he communicated it to Ct. Vergennes, but I find no answer to it among the papers. M. Gerard was advised of Mr Lovell's sending it to Lee, and he wrote to Ct. Vergennes that the facts had been obtained from him, but that they had received some colouring in the hands of the signers of the paper. He added that he felt no concern as to the opinion which that minister would form of his conduct; and that he congratulated himself on having been instrumental in relieving the French & Spanish ministry of "ce méchant et dangereux homme", and in preventing many evil consequences.

John Adams.

Oct. 1779. — John Adams went out from France on the same frigate with M. de La Luzerne, & they both landed at Boston. When Mr Adams returned as minister for making peace, M. de La Luzerne wrote his impressions of his character to Ct. Vergennes. He described him as a man of honest views and a true patriot, but so much wedded to the interests